

Spring 2012

Colorado Teachers:



Colorado has been given the honor of providing the 2012 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree. The effort, coordinated by the White River National Forest, Choose Outdoors, and numerous other businesses and community partners, will result in a gift to the nation from our entire state. We are asking you to help us showcase the creative talents of our teachers and our schools' students as part of this project.

In addition to providing a 60+ foot tree for the lawn of the Capitol, we are also asked to provide 5,000 handcrafted ornaments which will adorn the tree. We want Colorado school teachers to have this project in mind this spring. The deadline for completed projects is **October 5, 2012**.

Ornaments should depict our theme, "Celebrating Our Great Outdoors". While the ornaments must conform to some specific criteria, it is amazing to see the superb creativity generated by school teachers and their students. Old compact discs cut and fitted together like fish or birds, large glittery pine cones, wire creations with bits of evergreen or large feathers twirling in the wind, woven grasses and stalks of grain tied with swirls of ribbon, and wooden mountains or wildlife silhouettes are just a few of the ideas one can glean from past years' efforts.

You can visit our website at <http://www.capitolchristmastree2012.com/> to learn more about the Colorado project. All of the forms necessary to submit ornaments are attached.

Since we cannot guarantee that all ornaments will be used on the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree and since the ornaments are used only once then either recycled or donated to charities, ornament makers are cautioned about using materials of much monetary value. No ornaments can be returned to the maker.

Superintendents in all public school districts in the state will also be provided details about the ornament drive. We're excited to be able to include all Colorado school kids in this exciting project and sincerely hope you choose to have your students participate!

Sincerely,

/s/ Mary L. Cunningham

MARY L. CUNNINGHAM

U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Ornament Coordinator 2012

BLANCO RANGER DISTRICT
WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST
U.S. CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE PROJECT 2012
220 E. MARKET ST.
MEEKER, CO 81641
WWW.CAPITOLCHRISTMASTREE2012.COM

MARY CUNNINGHAM
CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENT COORDINATOR
PHONE: 970-878-6015 FAX: 970-878-5173

EMAIL: MLCUNNINGHAM@FS.FED.US



Introducing the 2012 Capitol Christmas Tree Handmade Ornament Campaign

“Celebrating Our Great Outdoors”

What?

Colorado has been asked to supply the 2012 Capitol Christmas Tree which will come from the White River National Forest. The tree will be displayed on the lawn of the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. throughout the 2012 holiday season and will be a gift to the nation from Colorado.

In addition to providing the tree, Coloradoans will provide the 5000 handmade ornaments to adorn the tree. We will also supply several smaller ‘companion’ trees to decorate offices throughout the Washington, D.C. area - these trees need 1000 indoor ornaments. We need your help with this project!

**Ornaments should be designed to reflect
the 2012 theme
“Celebrating Our Great Outdoors”**

Ornament Theme

Ornaments should be designed to reflect our theme “Celebrating Our Great Outdoors” by showing the array of opportunities that exist to enjoy outdoor recreation in our state. Outdoor activities are as diverse as our population and may include fishing, hunting, skiing, camping, hiking, backpacking, sledding, four-wheeling, or ice-climbing just to name a few! To view ornament designs from past years, go to the sites below on the web:

2011 California Shines
2010 Wyoming Forever West
2009 Arizona’s Gift

More Information?

Contact Mary Cunningham at (970) 878-6015
or E-mail: mlcunningham@fs.fed.us

**Colorado has been asked to supply 5000
ornaments for the outdoor tree as well as
1000 ornaments for the indoor
companion trees**

Who?

We invite participation in this project from everyone - school classes, 4-H clubs, scout troupes, art councils, civic organizations and all other youth and adult groups and/or individuals.

Please keep the criteria listed on the ‘Ornament Criteria Sheet’ in mind. If possible, check with the ornament coordinator listed below to confirm what type of ornaments are most needed before you start your project.

No ornaments can be returned and they are only used for one year, so while they should be beautiful and thoughtfully created, valuable artwork is not appropriate. **Please, No Glass!**

Where and When

The White River National Forest will collect the ornaments throughout the year prior to shipping to D.C. The deadline for receiving ornaments is October 5, 2012. Call or E-mail us before you ship - there are a number of sponsors’ offices around the state that are willing to ship your creations at no charge! Ship ornaments to:

**Mary Cunningham
Capitol Christmas Tree Ornaments
Blanco Ranger District
220 E. Market St.
Meeker, CO 81641**





Introducing the 2012 Capitol Christmas Tree

“Celebrating Our Great Outdoors”

No season generates more enthusiasm, good will, and deeper traditions than the Christmas Season. And so it is only appropriate that our leaders would develop a way to focus the nation’s attention, ever so briefly, on a single and most beautiful symbol of the season – the Capitol Christmas Tree.

the 2012 Capitol Christmas Tree

The White River National Forest is excited and honored to provide the 2012 Capitol Christmas Tree. In partnership with the nonprofit group ‘Choose Outdoors’, activities throughout the year will be focused around ‘The People’s Tree’ - Colorado’s Gift to the Nation. This will be the third time for Colorado to provide the Capitol Christmas Tree, although the first time for the White River National Forest. The tree will come from the Blanco Ranger District in Meeker, Colorado, located in the beautiful White River Valley.

The theme of the 2012 Capitol Christmas Tree Project is *“Celebrating Our Great Outdoors”*. The project seeks to promote all types of outdoor recreation and to connect Americans to their public lands. Contests will be held for artists and songwriters to accompany the yearlong celebration.

History of the Capitol Christmas Tree

Speaker of the House of Representatives John W. McCormack began the tradition of the Capitol Christmas Tree in 1964. The first tree was live but lasted only three years due to wind and root damage. For the next two years, a pair of eastern white pine trees were assembled to form the tree. Early in 1970, the Capitol Architect approached the U.S. Forest Service for assistance. Since that time, it has become an honor for one of the National Forests to be asked to provide the Capitol Christmas Tree.

Tree Lighting and Drawing

Traditionally, a child from the Tree's home state is chosen by drawing to light the Capitol Christmas Tree with the Speaker of the House. Children who have submitted ornaments for the Capitol Tree are invited to enter a drawing to win this trip to Washington, D.C. accompanied by their parents.

In addition to supplying the 60 - 90 foot Capitol Tree, Colorado residents will supply 5,000 ornaments for the outdoor tree as well as 1,000 ornaments for the indoor companion trees.

Ornament Campaign

The 60 - 90 foot Capitol Tree will need 5,000 ornaments to adorn its boughs. Smaller, indoor ‘companion’ trees that will decorate some offices in D.C. will require another 1,000 ornaments. All youth from Colorado are invited to create an ornament for the Capitol Christmas Tree. This statewide ornament campaign seeks to involve schools, youth groups, 4-H clubs, boy scouts, girl scouts, art councils and other groups or individuals wishing to participate. Ornaments should portray the many ways that Coloradans celebrate the outdoors. Children are encouraged to create their ornaments out of recycled materials.

The Tree Goes On Tour

In mid-November, the Tree will spend a week touring Colorado before heading across the nation to the U.S. Capitol. Each community the tree visits on its route will organize a celebration. The theme of *“Celebrating Our Great Outdoors”* and enjoying public lands will be brought to communities along with the tree.

Visit our website
www.capitolchristmastree2012.com
or E-mail Ken Coffin at
kcoffin@fs.fed.us
(970) 878-6001 for more information





2012 Capitol Christmas Tree Outdoor Ornament Criteria

Colorado Handmade Ornament campaign for 60+ Ft. Outdoor Tree

“Celebrating Our Great Outdoors”

Colorado artists - all ages and skills - are invited to create ornaments that reflect our theme “Celebrating Our Great Outdoors”. To help ensure that your ornament can be used on the outdoor tree, please adhere to the following criteria:

- S** 9 - 12” in size and less than 1/2 pound in weight.
- S** Durable and weatherproof for use in outdoors in wet & wintry conditions.
- S** Make sure that there are appropriate holes in your ornament for hanging.
- S** Decorated with colorful materials (reflective if possible).
- S** To minimize environmental impacts, ornament makers are encouraged to use recycled or natural construction materials.
- S** Decorated on both sides with a large, relatively simple design that can be seen from a distance of 25 - 70 feet.
- S** Ornaments can't be returned and are used for one year, so while they should be thoughtfully created, valuable artwork is not appropriate.
- S** Call us before you ship - there are a number of sponsors' offices around the state that are willing to help transport your creations are no charge!
- S** We would love to have photos of your group with their ornaments to include in our photo gallery. If you wish, include a labeled CD with photos shipped with your ornaments along with a completed Ornament Submission Form.
- S** Ornaments must be received by the Ornament Coordinator by October 5, 2012.
- S** **No Glass Please!**

Ship to:
Mary Cunningham
Blanco Ranger District
220 E. Market St.
Meeker, CO 81641

*For more information contact Mary at (970) 878-6015 or
E-mail: mlcunningham@fs.fed.us*





2012 Capitol Christmas Tree Indoor Ornament Criteria

**Colorado Handmade Ornament
campaign for small, indoor trees**

“Celebrating Our Great Outdoors”

Colorado artists - all ages and skills - are invited to create ornaments that reflect our theme “Celebrating Our Great Outdoors”. In addition to providing the 60+ foot tall outdoor tree for the Capitol, we will also provide several smaller trees to decorate agency and congressional offices throughout D.C. We need 1000 ornaments to decorate these indoor trees. To ensure that your ornament can be used on the indoor tree, please adhere to the following criteria:

- S** 3 - 7” in height and appropriate holes for hanging.
- S** These ornaments will be viewed close up so quality and detail are important.
- S** To minimize environmental impacts, ornament makers are encouraged to use recycled or natural construction materials.
- S** Ornaments can’t be returned and are used for one year, so while they should be thoughtfully created, valuable artwork is not appropriate.
- S** Call us before you ship - there are a number of sponsors’ offices around the state that are willing to help transport your creations are no charge!
- S** We would love to have photos of your group with their ornaments to include in our photo gallery. If you wish, include a labeled CD with photos shipped with your ornaments along with a completed Ornament Submission Form.
- S** Ornaments must be received by the Ornament Coordinator by October 5, 2012.
- S** *No Glass Please!*

**Ship to:
Mary Cunningham
Blanco Ranger District
220 E. Market St.
Meeker, CO 81641**

*For more information contact Mary at (970) 878-6015 or
E-mail: mlcunningham@fs.fed.us*





2012 Capitol Christmas Tree

Outdoor and Indoor Ornament Submission Form and Shipping Label

"Celebrating Our Great Outdoors"

Please include a signed copy of this form in the shipping box with your ornaments.

Name of your organization:

Address: _____

Project Leader Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please tell us about your school, club or organization, your community and your ornaments
(use the back side of this paper if you need more room):

_____ Enclosed is a photo CD of our ornaments and/or our group making the ornaments.

_____ I give my permission to you to use our photos in the Photo Gallery on your website or any other media relating to the 2012 Capitol Christmas Tree.

Signed:

Date:





2012 Capitol Christmas Tree

Ornament Shipping Label

“Celebrating Our Great Outdoors”

-----Cut here and tape to the outside of your shipping box-----

**To: Mary Cunningham
Blanco Ranger District
White River National Forest
Attention: Capitol Christmas Tree Ornaments
220 E. Market St.
Meeker, CO 81641**

(Enclosed: ____# Outdoor Ornaments ____# Indoor Ornaments)





Entry Form for Trip to 2012 Tree Lighting Ceremony Drawing

Win a Trip to the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree 2012 Lighting Ceremony in Washington, D.C.!

Young Coloradoans, between the ages of 5 and 19, who create and submit an ornament for use on the 2012 outdoor Capitol Christmas Tree, are eligible to enter a drawing to win a trip to Washington, D.C., to attend the Tree Lighting Ceremony in December 2012. The name of one young Coloradoan will be drawn and that person will win the all-expense paid trip for him/herself and accompanying parents or guardian.

Please - Only One Entry Per Person

Please complete the following:

I am a young Coloradoan, aged 5 through 19, and have submitted an ornament for the outdoor 2012 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree. Here's my contact information:

Name: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____

City: _____ State: **Colorado** Zip: _____

If your ornament was made as part of a school or organization project, complete the following:

School or Organization Name: _____

Grade or Skill Level: _____ Age: _____

Coordinator: _____ (if child is home-schooled indicate)

Required - Parent/Guardian Printed Name and Signature:

Contact Phone Number and E-mail Address (if available) for Parent/Guardian:

Mail Entry Form to:
Tree Lighting Ceremony Drawing
Attention: Mary Cunningham
Blanco Ranger District
220 E. Market St.
Meeker, CO 81641

MUST BE POSTMARKED BY OCTOBER 1, 2012
**Remember - Mail this form separately - Do Not Pack The
Entry Form In With Your Ornament!**

