

Welcome to Rangers Corner from the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. My name is Tauhir Jones I'm the Public Affairs Officer. We are right in the midst of the holiday season. The holiday season is in full swing, and one of the special things that you can do here on the Gifford Pinchot National Forrest is harvest your own holiday tree. We sent our Public Affairs Specialist, Ken Sandusky, out into the field to talk to people about their experiences gathering trees the forest. Ken...

Thanks TJ! I have a here Carly and her daughter Isabella. They have purchased some Christmas tree tags today. Carly, can you tell us a little bit about your family tradition of finding a Christmas Tree on the Gifford Pinchot?

Well, we started a few years back, and the first time I thought we were definitely going to get a Charlie Brown tree. But, when we finally got to the top of a hill there was a whole bunch of noble firs and we were super excited to find it. Tromping around through the woods is great fun, being careful to not roll an ankle though (light laughter). We like to roast marshmallows, bring hot chocolate and go out with a bunch of our friends and just kind of spend the day out in the woods.

Now we are here with Matt. Can you tell us a little bit about your family tradition of hunting a Christmas tree on the Gifford Pinchot?

Yeah! A couple years ago buddy got me to go out in the woods and got a permit and cut it. It was just so much neater than going to a farm and picking one out. We take the whole family out there, and it's really neat. We really enjoy it.

Now I'm here with Belinda. Can you tell us a little bit about your family tradition of hunting Christmas Trees ion the forest?

Well my dad used to take me with my family every year and we'd get a tree, so now I do it with my fiancé every year.

Now I'm here with Bill. Can you tell us a little bit about your family tradition of Christmas Trees on the Gifford Pinchot?

Yeah! We go up there every year. We take about the 15 people up with us at a time. We take all the kids and .have a good time and find our trees. You know you got to work at it a little bit, but the longer you work at it the better it is. The kids love it! We take them up there and cut down a tree, and get a fire going. It's part of Christmas for us. We've been doing it for 15 years now. It's a lot of fun!

Thanks Ken. And in keeping with great traditions, on December 14th this year the Gifford Pinchot National Forest Public Affairs Office is planning this year's Christmas tree outing. If you'd like to join us you're more than welcome to come cut a tree at a special spot near the historic Wind River Nursery.

At 8 a.m., we will meet here at forest headquarters, at 10600 North East 51st Circle here in Vancouver, Washington, and you can buy tags, and you can caravan up behind us. We will show you the way. The caravan leaves Forest Headquarters 8:30 a.m. Carpooling is encouraged of course. At 9:30 we will arrive up at the Hemlock Picnic Area. And then a 10 a.m. we'll caravan to the harvest site where you'll be able to gather you trees.

So we're looking forward to seeing you there and we're hoping to be a part of your family holiday traditions here on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Happy holidays, and we are looking forward to seeing you on the 14th.

Visit fs.usda.gov/giffordpinchot for more information.