

Alternative Arbor Day Celebration and Service Learning Project Ideas for Tree City USA, Tree Line USA, and Tree Campus Higher Education Communities

In light of the impact COVID-19 is having on all of us this Arbor Day, check out these celebration ideas and examples that do not involve public gatherings.

Alternative Arbor Day Celebration Ideas

- Hold a virtual Arbor Day, using your city's cable access channel to demonstrate how to properly plant a tree.
- Livestream a tree book reading or share videos of librarians reading the poem *Trees* by Joyce Kilmer.
- Conduct an online tree awareness campaign, explaining the benefits of trees in the community.
- Conduct a virtual tour of the biggest or oldest trees on your campus or in the community.
- Sponsor a community Arbor Day art contest for youth or involve college graphic design students in a poster design challenge.
- Host a tree ID challenge social media campaign.
- Host an "Ask the Arborist" Q&A session allowing homeowners to ask tree care questions via Zoom.
- Invite local youth to submit a tree-related question to a city arborist via email and answer the questions via video posted on your community's website or social media.
- Invite your NCFCS County Ranger and/or County Cooperative Extension agent to give a video presentation to your community group or school.
- Host a drive-through tree give-away event.

Examples

- City of Rocky Mount Arbor Day Proclamation reading by the Mayor – recognizing Tree City USA and Tree Line USA for the city and Tree Campus Higher Education for NC Wesleyan University <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njzUeCwVVMo>
- "Ask An Arborist" – Raleigh, NC <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QQ6FRpQcd-o>
- City of Greenville, NC, Releaf Greenville, NC Forest Service, and Pitt County Coop Ext. virtual Arbor Day presentation to elementary students <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-hjVQt5bJw>
- Arbor Day Observance video – Jacksonville, NC Environmental & Appearance Advisory Committee <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NpEjQnFiPA>
- City of Marion 30th Tree City USA Celebration - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxKqAwkc6wI>
- Knightdale, NC Virtual Arbor Day Celebration – art contest for Arbor Day and Facebook Live broadcast of socially-distanced tree planting and celebration <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEOEQrodI-g>
- Tree Planting Demonstration video – Washington, DC DOT Urban Forestry Division <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkwGVQ-24Vw>

- City of Waynesboro, VA Arbor Day Celebration - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xR2v_pgGahk

Tree Line USA Arbor Day Celebration Ideas

- Create a video demonstrating Right Tree Right Place principles and share on social media.
- Create a video showcasing your utility tree trimming crew – Wake Forest Power video <https://vimeo.com/235047931>
- Partner with your local community, school, or community tree-planting group to promote Arbor Day events.
- Host a tree give-away event providing trees that are more appropriate to being planted near overhead lines, along with educational information on proper planting and Right Tree Right Place.

Tree Campus Higher Education Service Learning Project Ideas

Many of the Arbor Day celebration ideas and examples above could be adapted into a service learning project. Below are some additional, campus-specific ideas and examples that could meet both Standard 4 and 5.

Ideas

- Alamance Community College students created a landscape design for the Parks & Recreation building in the downtown area.
- Bladen Community College students, faculty, and staff partnered with a local historical site for a community clean-up day.
- Duke University created a video showing how trees on campus are maintained.
- East Carolina University students developed an initiative to establish a campus orchard.
- High Point University partnered with Keep High Point Beautiful to donate trees to residents in the City of High Point.
- NC State University developed a citizen science project where students measure and collect data on campus trees.
- UNC-Asheville developed a Tree Campus Bingo game. Students were encouraged to walk around campus, find 5 things on their Bingo card, and submit pictures to be entered to win a tree ID guide.
- UNC-Greensboro hosted an invasive plant removal day.

Examples

- High Point University Gardens Tour – Arbor Day Celebration & Service Learning project <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-GJTL87vNsA>
- Bladen Community College Tree Benefits Awareness Campaign <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K6v1zJxMcu4>
- Duke University Caring for Duke's Canopy video <https://lens.duke.edu/duke-campus-trees>
- West Virginia State University virtual Arbor Day observance <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3FQykOX4vSQ>

- Whitman College Tree Climbing demonstration by campus arborist
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9prHboTh7rM>



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RELATED RESOURCES

- [Yearly Timeline](#)
- [2021 Program Requirements for Arbor Day and Service Learning Projects](#)
- [More About Tree Boards](#)
- [Ideas for Improving your TCUSA Program](#)
- [Alternative Arbor Day and Service Learning Project Ideas](#)
- [Promoting Tree City and Arbor Day](#)
- [Tree Cities, Campuses and Lines in NC](#)