

Connecting Youth to Nature
and Healthy Ecosystems



Forest Service Conservation Education Program

- Public Service Campaigns
- Teacher Training Opportunities
- Grant Programs
- Distance Learning Opportunities
- Educational Products and Services
- Science Journals
- National Icons: Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl
- Junior Ranger Programs
- Partnership Opportunities
- Social Media

Discover the Forest Campaign

Developed in partnership with the Ad Council, the Discover the Forest Campaign focuses on connecting children and families with nature. A wide variety of public service advertisements drive visitors to a Web site with activities and a map component that shows nearby natural areas. DreamWorks, Universal Studios/Dr. Seuss Estate, Sony Pictures Entertainment, and 20th Century Fox have partnered with this campaign to encourage America's youth to experience the America's Great Outdoors. Visit <http://www.discovertheforest.org> and <http://www.descubreelbosque.org>.

Junior Ranger Programs

The Junior Ranger Programs promote knowledge and understanding of the forests and the outdoors to upper elementary schoolchildren. The Junior Forest Ranger and the Junior Snow Ranger programs encourage children to learn more about the forest and its ecosystems while enjoying the outdoors. Activity books are available through the National Symbols Cache at <http://www.symbols.gov>.

A Forest for Every Classroom Teacher Training (FFEC)

This training program emphasizes place-based conservation education and service-learning.

Teachers develop a curriculum tailored specifically to their location and then use it with their students. Developed in the Northeast, the Forest Service has worked with partners to replicate the program in Montana, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Texas, and plan to expand it further. Visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/helena/ffec/index.shtml>.

Natural Inquirer and Investigator Science Journals

These middle and upper elementary school journals connect scientists to classrooms by sharing research with students. Each article presents scientific research conducted by scientists in the Forest Service. Visit <http://www.naturalinquirer.org> and <http://www.scienceinvestigator.org>. Contact: Barbara McDonald, Ph.D., (706) 559-4224, bmcDonald@fs.fed.us

Distance Learning Adventures

Using state-of-the-art satellite broadcast/ Webcast technology in partnership with Prince William County Schools, the Forest Service has brought several distance learning programs on the Monarch Butterfly and pollinators into classrooms. These programs can be viewed from the Web site. Look for BatsLive and Climate Change programs.

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Green Schools!

This program, in partnership with the American Forest Foundation's Project Learning Tree, provides a blueprint for educators, students, environmental and health advocates, school board members, parents, and interested community members to teach, learn, and engage together in creating a more green and healthy learning environment at their school. It combines environmental education, service learning, and leadership opportunities for students to help turn their school into a model green school. Visit <http://greenschools.org>.

Children and Nature Health Initiative

In partnership with the National Environmental Education Foundation, the Forest Service Children's Forests work with health professionals to prescribe outdoor time in nature to encourage and teach children how to protect their health and the environment. Visit http://www.neefusa.org/health/children_nature.htm.

More Kids in the Woods

An annual cost-share grant program that funds projects around the country to encourage children and youth to be outside and engaged in active, meaningful, learning experiences. Partners work with Forest Service units in the development of these activities and programs. Visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/conservationeducation>.

The Woodsy Owl Educational Program

The Woodsy Owl Act of 1974 is the act of Congress that recognizes Woodsy Owl as America's icon for the conservation of the environment. The National Symbols Program has focused Woodsy Owl's effort on the development of high-quality educational and licensing products. For more information about Woodsy Owl program, visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/conservationeducation/woodyowl>. You can also follow Woodsy Owl on Facebook.

Support to Smokey Bear National Fire Prevention Campaign

Smokey Bear is America's symbol for wildfire prevention as established by the Smokey Bear Act of 1954. The National Symbols Program supports the national wildfire prevention campaign by developing educational and promotional

products used by field practitioners, educators and partners with their fire prevention programs and services. For more information about Smokey, visit <http://www.smokeybear.com> or follow Smokey Bear in Facebook and/or Twitter.

Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl

Annual Poster Contest

For more than 50 years, the National Garden Clubs, Inc., and the Forest Service has partnered to develop the annual Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl National Garden Clubs, Inc. poster contest. Children from first grade through fifth grade are encouraged to participate. The national grand prize winner of the poster contest wins a round trip ticket for a family of four to the Nation's capital. For more information about the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl poster contest, visit <http://www.gardenclub.org/Youth/Contests/PosterContest.aspx>.

Woodsy Owl/Smokey Bear

Head Start Partnership

It is never too early to understand and appreciate Woodsy's and Smokey's messages. In 2003, the Forest Service partnered with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of the Head Start to help promote conservation and fire prevention messages among young children and their families. Information about the Head Start partnership is available at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/conservationeducation/woodyowl>.

National Symbols Cache

National Symbols Cache is the source for educational and promotional products. It is managed in partnership with the Superior National Forest and the Northeastern Fire Interagency Cache in Grand Rapids, MN. For information about Smokey Bear, Woodsy Owl, fire education and related products, visit <http://www.symbols.gov>.

