

Life is Better with Trees Schools Competition



Forests are often called the lungs of the Earth because they produce the oxygen that makes life on our planet possible. But that's not the only good thing that trees do.

Trees provide benefits to living things all over the world – from the food and homes they provide for animals to the wood they supply for our houses, from the seasons they mark to the cooling shade they cast on our streets and playgrounds, trees and the good things they give us are all around.

Another great thing that trees do is help combat climate change by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide in their trunks and keeping it there even when the wood is used to create the things like homes, wooden floors, desks and park benches.

The Life is Better With Trees Schools Competition is an initiative of Planet Ark as part of National Tree Day. It aims to encourage primary and high school students to learn about the benefits of trees and tap into their creativity to demonstrate what they've learnt.

Competition Scenario

“Friendly Alien Needs Tree Tutor”

2011 is the International Year of the Forest on planet Earth and news of this celebration has spread to the outer parts of our galaxy. On a far-away planet, a young alien named Andy has heard the news and wants to know what all the fuss is about. Andy is from a planet where there are no trees, so he doesn't know about all the amazing things trees provide.

This is where you come in. Andy wants someone to teach him about trees - he needs a Tree Tutor!

Stage 1 – Kindergarten (or Prep, Reception or Transition) to Year 2 AND Stage 2 – Years 3 & 4

Create a poster illustrating all the good things that trees provide. Remember, Andy lives on a far-away planet so you'll need to create something that can be mailed to him, **no larger than an A3 poster**.

Stage 3 – Years 5 & 6 (or Years 5,6 & 7 in Qld, SA & WA)

Explain to Andy in an electronic format all the good things that trees provide. Because Andy lives in another galaxy, you'll need to create something that he can view via the intergalactic internet, like a video, an animation, a digital story or a multimedia production. Remember, this is Andy's first lesson on trees so keep it short, **no longer than 5 minutes**.

Stage 4/5 – Years 7 to 10 (or Years 8 to 10 in Qld, SA & WA)

Explain to Andy in an electronic format, such as a video, an animation, a digital story or a multimedia production, the range of good things that trees provide, including their role in the carbon cycle and how they help combat climate change. Entries must be no shorter than 1 minute and **no longer than 7 minutes in length**.

Prizes

A total of \$5000 in prize money has been donated by Planet Ark's *Make It Wood – Do Your World Some Good* campaign, which promotes the use of sustainably sourced wood as a solution to climate change.

The Winning Entry from each stage wins \$700 for their school (4 in total)

The Runner Up Entry from each stage wins \$400 for their school (4 in total)

The Highly Commended Entry from each stage wins \$150 (4 in total).

How to enter

- One entry per class will be accepted. Note: Teachers may enter a submission produced by the class as a group OR ask each student to produce an individual piece and then send us the best entry from the class.
- Stages 1 & 2 poster entries must be sent with an entry form attached, to: Planet Ark, PO Box 4, Wentworth Falls NSW 2782.



National Tree Day is organised by Planet Ark in partnership with Toyota Australia



- Stage 3 & Stage 4/5 video entries must be uploaded to YouTube (please make it private) and the YouTube ID (video URL) included on the online entry form at TreeDay.PlanetArk.org/Competitions. See the Helpful Links section below for information on making a video, uploading it to YouTube and making it private.
- Entries must be submitted by **5pm Friday 4th November 2011**.

How will the entries be judged

Entries will be judged by a panel comprising Planet Ark staff members working on the National Tree Day and Make It Wood campaigns.

Judging will be based on:

1. The quality of the content, including the demonstrated understanding of the breadth of benefits that trees provide (all stages). Stage 4/5 entries will also be judged on the demonstrated understanding of the role that trees play in the carbon cycle and how they help tackle climate change.
2. Originality and creativity of the communication method, for example, video entries may include music, acting or multimedia applications to assist in communicating the message.
3. Effectiveness of the communication method. After viewing the entry, could a person (or an alien like Andy!) with no knowledge of trees understand the benefits of trees, and for Stage 4/5 entries, the role of trees in the carbon cycle and how they help combat climate change?
4. Audiovisual quality in electronic entries. While content is more important than production values, the sound and picture quality does need to be good enough so that the judges can make a fair assessment. Before submitting your entry, please check the quality of the recording
5. Adherence to the time limit (Stages 3 & 4/5) and poster size limit (Stages 1 & 2).

Music, photos and footage

Schools should use original music, photos and footage created by students rather than use popular songs copied from professional artists or photos or footage produced by other people unless permission is given. Schools should be careful they don't breach copyright laws.

What will happen with the entries?

All entries may be used by Planet Ark to promote National Tree Day and future schools competitions. Photographs or video from the winning entries may appear on the Planet Ark National Tree Day website.

Terms and conditions

1. This competition is open to students enrolled in Government and non-Government schools in all Australian States and Territories.
2. Participating classes must have the permission of their school principal.
3. Schools are responsible for the cost of submitting their entry.
4. All applicants must submit a fully completed entry form to Planet Ark. Entry forms and instructions are available at TreeDay.PlanetArk.org/Competitions
5. Permission must be obtained for the use of any student images in entries. Media Consent forms can be downloaded from TreeDay.PlanetArk.org/Competitions
6. Winners' names will be disclosed to the relevant school principals and to staff nominated as project leaders. Prizes will be forwarded via the school principal.
7. Planet Ark reserves the right to reproduce or adapt materials submitted as part of this competition. Any reproductions or adaptations will include an acknowledgement to relevant schools.
8. Poster entries will only be returned if a stamped, self-addressed poster barrel is sent in with the entry.

Helpful Links

The Benefits of Trees Fact Sheet

TreeDay.PlanetArk.org/Competitions

Information on the benefits of wood and Planet Ark's 'Make It Wood' campaign

TreeDay.PlanetArk.org/Competitions

Additional Teacher Resources

TreeDay.PlanetArk.org/Teachers

How to Make a Video - Staff and students in NSW public schools can find out how to make a documentary by logging onto the Teaching and Learning Exchange (TALE) intranet site. The Victorian Government's Youth Central website – YouthCentral.vic.gov.au – also has some useful information on making a film. Simply type 'make a film' into the search box on the home page to find it.

Getting started with YouTube

YouTube.com/t/about_getting_started

How to make your YouTube video private

Google.com/support/YouTube/bin/answer.py?answer=157177

Have a question?

If you have any questions, call the National Tree Day Hotline on 1300 88 5000.



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