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# Kids4Trees

Planting for the Future



Contact: Stephen Redner at [Kids4Trees@hotmail.com](mailto:Kids4Trees@hotmail.com)

Attend a Tree Planting for Scouts Near You  
Registration is limited to 200 Scouts per day. Register now.

April 18-19

April 25-26

## Angeles National Forest

## San Bernardino National Forest

Located in the San Gabriel Mountains of Los Angeles County, north of metro LA  
Sat. 4/18 – Girl Scouts  
Sun. 4/19 – Boy Scouts

San Bernardino Forest with five wilderness areas covering over 800,000 acres.  
Sat. – 4/25 – Girl Scouts  
Sun. 4/26 – Boy Scouts





**Kids 4Trees™ and the United States Forest Service hereby invite all Girl and Boy Scouts, app. aged 6 – 12, to officially participate with their troops and parents or guardians in a tree planting Saturdays for Girl Scouts/Brownies and Sundays for Boy Scouts/Cubs, from April 11 – 26 (see above schedule), in areas of National Forests near you that require reforestation, primarily due to forest fires.**

Kids4Trees and the United States Forest Service, in conjunction with the San Bernardino National Forest Association, will seek to ensure an enjoyable, inspirational, and educational experience. Kids4Trees plantings count toward UNEP's Billion Tree Campaign and are endorsed by UNESCO, the United States Forest Service, and the California Department of Education plus numerous tree-related foundations and associations. The project is a part of the United Nations Decade of

## Background

Nonprofit Association Pour la Terre is an official partner of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in its Billion Tree Campaign and has the support of UNESCO, the Prince Albert Foundation of Monaco, the United States Forest Service, the United States National Park Service, the California Department of Education, and others for its international tree planting project for children, originally entitled "A Tree for Peace; A Tree for the Earth." Pour la Terre's first International Earth Charter/UNESCO CD and school kit has been integrated into the UNESCO Education for Sustainable Development web site since 2005, as part of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development.

On March 20 and November 21 of this year Pour la Terre concluded a very successful tree-planting event for over 450 school children each planting from 16 schools from Antibes to Monaco along the Cote d'Azur. It included prepared sites for planting in a burned out area in the lower mountains within an hour bus ride of all the school locations. The sites were selected, proper holes prepared, and the planting supervised by the French forest service (ONF).

November 3-8 saw the launch of Kids4Trees, with 5 plantings with 6-12 year olds in the Angeles National Forest (app. 800 school children), with Girl Scouts exclusively participating November 8. Its success has led to its continuance into the spring, with plantings at S. Lake Tahoe, Plumas National Forest, Angeles National Forest, San Bernardino National Forest, and National Park Service (Malibu, Oxnard/Ventura.)

## **2. Project Overview**

The basics of the project are as follows:

- Areas ideal for 6 – 12 year old Scout tree plantings within a convenient distance from the subject Scouts' residences are determined by the US Forest Service which require reforestation due to fire. The Scouts arrive with appropriate mountain area clothing and sturdy walking or tennis shoes.
- App. 300-500 Scouts at a time are invited. The children bring lunches (water provided by Kids4Trees). Participating Scouts are provided access to mp3 downloads w/lyrics of 12 songs devoted to trees (in English, Spanish, Chinese and French) app. 2 weeks in advance of the event to enable them to learn their favorite song(s) to sing at the event by Council or group. The California Department of Education and the United States Forest Service have approved the CD.
- The Scouts and their parents or guardians should arrive by 9:30. The Scouts gather at a common meeting ground where there are also toilet facilities, a makeshift speech and singing area, and tables. At app. 10:00 the short drive or hike to the planting area commences and the planting continues until noon under the supervision and instruction of US Forest Rangers. The US Forest Service is providing all the appropriate trees. Following the planting, the Scouts are given a copy of the CD and a Tree Kit with booklet about trees and their role and importance to the environment with accompanying learning tools. The California Department of Education and the United States Forest Service have approved the Tree Kit.
- The Scouts return to the meeting ground for lunch and then a speaker regarding trees, followed by music performed by professional children's singers and by participating Scouts. All the songs relate to trees and the environment. The students depart at app. 3 pm.

## **3. Project Objectives**

- To protect, restore and enhance the natural capital of trees and forests. Healthy forests filter water, remove air pollution, sequester carbon, and provide homes for wildlife.
- Help plant trees to restore areas damaged by wildfire, where critical wildlife habitat has been lost, and to clean our air and water in a meaningful manner with the assistance of governmental forestry services in selection, planting, maintenance and protection.
- Teach Scouts in an enjoyable and healthy environment the joy and feeling of contribution to the Earth that tree planting instills in impressionably aged children.
- Promote positive music devoted to trees and their role in our ecosystem and with respect to humans.
- Provide a program by which Scouts can earn appropriate badges.

#### **4. Project Approach in General**

- Communicate and coordinate with the relevant persons with the US Forest Service, the relevant State Boards of Education and school districts (public and at times private) and non-profit organizations devoted to trees such as the San Bernardino National Forest Association to help promote, provide information, and perhaps assist with various plantings. All have demonstrated enthusiasm and prepared to discuss coordination of events. Large private schools can also be contacted since increasing numbers of students in California attend private schools.
- Areas and times for planting are identified well in advance by the applicable forestry service.
- A CD with 10-14 songs principally in English (and Spanish, Chinese or French -- depending on the region) will be produced along with an accompanying school kit/tree planting kit. These would all have sponsor/partner logos along with UNEP, UNESCO and other agreed supporting organizations. The CD can be national and/or regional. Thus, songs from different local artists can be added or substituted.
- The songs and lyrics of the CD and any organizational material are distributed by Kids4Trees directly to the school and participating organization well in advance of the tree-planting event. The classes learn at least one song in advance of the outing that might later be performed for the other participants as a group following the picnic.

#### **5. Project Team**

- Kids4Trees will be the principal coordinator, under the overall direction of Executive Director Stephen Redner, in coordination with the US Forest Service and other participating forest organizations.

#### **6. Critical Success Factors**

- Impressionably aged children will have had the experience and warm pleasure of planting trees and helping to restore the forest and replenish the Earth.
- Scouts will have learned how trees grow and their importance to our planet's survival, especially as relates to CO<sub>2</sub>, which may lead to the Scouts planting many more trees in the future.
- Scouts will have enjoyed the positive music CD and accompanying school and tree kits related to trees.
- CO<sub>2</sub> will have been diminished "that much more" as a result of the multiple activities.

Stephen Redner  
President and Executive Director

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