

A TEACHABLE MOMENT

# U.S. CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE FROM OREGON!



Every year, the U.S. Forest Service provides a tree from one of our country's National Forests to display on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol for the holiday season. This year, for the first time, the tree will come from Oregon's Willamette National Forest.



Oregon Forest  
Resources Institute



The U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, along with more than 70 companion trees and 10,000 handmade ornaments, will travel

to Washington, D.C. in a modern-day wagon train that will retrace the Oregon Trail in reverse. The 3,000-mile journey will begin in Sweet Home in November, and will include a series of community celebrations at various stops in Oregon and in other states along the way. It will culminate with the official tree lighting in early December.

The U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree offers a unique opportunity for students to discover Oregon's forests and their importance to the people, culture and communities of our state and beyond. As 2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Trails Act and the 175th anniversary of the Oregon Trail, the year-long project also provides opportunities for students and their families to explore trails in our National Forests.

## RESOURCES

Websites: [CapitolChristmasTree.com](http://CapitolChristmasTree.com)  
[fs.usda.gov/Willamette](http://fs.usda.gov/Willamette)  
[LearnForests.org](http://LearnForests.org)

Facebook: [@USCapitolChristmasTree](https://www.facebook.com/USCapitolChristmasTree)  
[@WillametteNF](https://www.facebook.com/WillametteNF)  
[@OregonForestResourcesInstitute](https://www.facebook.com/OregonForestResourcesInstitute)

Instagram: [@USCapitolChristmasTree](https://www.instagram.com/USCapitolChristmasTree)

Twitter: [@USCapitolTree](https://twitter.com/USCapitolTree)

## Planning Ahead for Fall

The **U.S. CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE INSTRUCTION GUIDE** – available in August – will contain learning activities and other teaching supports to help you connect the initiative to your classroom this fall. Check out [learnforests.org](http://learnforests.org) for this and other education resources on Oregon's forests.

## Get Involved Now

**NOMINATE A TREE:** Invite your students and their families to nominate a tree for the Capitol Christmas Tree! It should be 65 to 85 feet tall, have a conical shape, be visually pleasing from all angles, and reside on U.S. Forest Service land in the Sweet Home Ranger District. Send the GPS location and a photo of the nominated tree to [capitolchristmastree2018@gmail.com](mailto:capitolchristmastree2018@gmail.com). Submission deadline is June 30, 2018.

**MAKE DECORATIONS:** Help students create Oregon-themed ornaments for decorating the trees. See [capitolchristmastree.com/participate/decorate.html](http://capitolchristmastree.com/participate/decorate.html) for ornament criteria and a list of community ornament-making events.

**EXPLORE A TRAIL:** Encourage your students to explore the magnificent trails in our state. For example, the Willamette National Forest – which includes the Three Sisters and Mt. Jefferson Wildernesses—has more than 1,700 miles of trails for hiking, backpacking, mountain biking and horseback riding. Students and their families can also consider adopting a trail or volunteering to help take care of the places they visit (see [fs.fed.us/working-with-us/volunteers](http://fs.fed.us/working-with-us/volunteers) for more information).

## PROJECT PARTNERS

