



Connect with Nature



on National Tree Day

Schools Guide

A guide to planning your National Tree Day



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The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

- Nelson Henderson

01 About

Established in 1996, National Tree Day has grown into Australia's largest community tree planting and nature care event. The program is a call to action for all Australians to get their hands dirty and give back to their community.

Each year, around 300,000 people volunteer their time to engage in environmental activities that educate Australians about the world around them.

More than 3000 preschools, kindergartens, primary and high school students participate nationwide each year. Activities range from planting bush tucker gardens to building habitat for native wildlife, nature play and more.

It's a day to venture outdoors, get to know your community and, most importantly, have fun!

Over **26 million trees** have been planted by more than **5 million people**, and this number continues to grow with the help of dedicated volunteers around the country.

While every or any day can be Tree Day, Schools Tree Day and National Tree Day are held on the last Friday and Sunday of July, respectively. Our community up in the Northern part of Australia celebrate Tropical Tree Day on the first Sunday in December, each year.

National Tree Day is an opportunity to recognise the hard work of communities around Australia and celebrate their ongoing commitment to the environment.



The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.

- Chinese Proverb

02 Why get involved



Why get involved

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To **connect** your students with nature



To **inspire** the next generation by participating in a national environmental activity



To **inform** your students about environmental stewardship



To **develop** your School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP)



To **educate** the next generation (resources and lesson plans available [on our website](#))

How to get involved

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Host a community planting activity at your school



Regenerate degraded natural areas in your local community



Celebrate with fun environmental activities such as native bush tucker food stalls, composting workshops, a BBQ and games



Educate - Turn your Schools Tree Day actions into classroom learning with our lesson plans and activity sheets.

Activity ideas



A few ideas to get your Tree Day plans started

1

Have a **'Wear Green Day'** where students and staff wear a green item of clothing or accessory to school.

2

Invite parents to donate a tree on behalf of their children.



3

Take your students on a **guided bush walk** and educate them on local bushland and wildlife.

4

Create an ongoing **tree and plant care program** with your students.

5

Start a **Green Team!**



6

Get parents involved on-site to help manage events. They can also donate a tree to your school, fundraise or make a donation to the Seedling Bank.

7

Arrange a visit from a ranger or local council representative. They may be able to provide you with information and tools for your event.

8

Have a week dedicated to environmental awareness. Download our educational lesson plans for your students to learn more about the environment.

9

Contact the local council to arrange a demonstration on how to plant correctly and what native wildlife may be attracted to the plants.

10

Participate in the Schools Tree Day Competition.



Getting started



As a site coordinator

Step 1

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Nominate a site coordinator



This can be a teacher, parent or staff member. They will be in charge of:

- Registering the event
- Sourcing plants
- Event logistics
- Reporting results

Step 2

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Choose a date



Each year Schools Tree Day is held on the last Friday of July, with National Tree Day held on the last Sunday of July. Our community up in the Northern part of Australia celebrate Tropical Tree Day on the first Sunday in December, each year.

We understand this date may not suit every school because of prior commitments or weather conditions. You can hold a Tree Day event at any time of the year – just remember to register with Planet Ark.

Step 3

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Find a site



Pick a planting site within your school. If you have limited space consider regenerating degraded areas. There are plenty of ways your school can get involved in Tree Day - see the activity guide on page 5 for ideas.

PLEASE NOTE

Planet Ark does not supply plants. However, grants are available via The Seedling Bank program. For more info on sourcing plants, simply [visit our website](#).

Getting started



As a site coordinator

Step 4

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Register your event



Go to the **National Tree Day website** or call **1300 88 5000** to register your site.

Once you've registered with Planet Ark you will have access to digital tools and resources. It also means that we can keep a record of your efforts and results to be included in state and national totals.

A printed pack is optional at registration. You must enter your address details correctly. If you register your event less than 10 days before the actual day, we will not be able to send you support materials in time for your event.

Step 5

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Prepare for the day



Use the **Coordinator's Toolkit** and Event Planner (pg. 9) to prepare for the day. Send a reminder to your volunteers about what they need to bring, such as suitable clothing, gloves, sturdy footwear, sunscreen, hats, equipment, drinks and snacks, hand sanitiser.

Step 6

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Report your results



Make your effort count and report your results to the Tree Day support team **on our website**:

- How many students participated?
- How many trees were planted?



Planting Resources

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Ask your local community to get involved

Your local council or community nursery may be able to help by supplying native seedlings or plants. Some may even be able to provide buckets and shovels for the day or help with site preparation and maintenance. Get in touch with your local council or support group as early as possible. Check with your local Toyota dealership to see if they are available to support your Tree Day activity.

Still not sure where to find plants? Call our National Tree Day Hotline on **1300 88 5000** or [visit our website and check the Offers of Help page](#).

Planet Ark recommends that you plant local natives. Local natives are perfectly suited to the local soil type and climate, and they're also great for wildlife. To find plants native to your local area call your council.

Please note: Working with Children procedures must be implemented and adhered to.

Educational Resources

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Turn your Schools Tree Day actions into classroom learning by accessing our free lesson plans and educational resources. Please [visit the toolkit on our website to access](#):

- Posters
- Participation certificates
- Web graphics
- Activity sheets
- Lesson plans
- Paperwork
- Schools Competition



Pre-Event

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Now that you are registered, it's time to start planning:

- Gather your organisational team. Together, work out a plan for your event: date, location, number of attendees, etc.
- Recruit your volunteers
- Organise native trees, shrubs, groundcovers or grass seedings for your site - reach out to local nurseries for support
- Organise tools & equipment, gardening gloves, shovels, stakes, tree guards or used milk cartons to protect seedlings
- Organise a first aid kit and a qualified first aider for the day
- Organise your event signage so people know where and when your event will be held
- Organise rubbish bins or bags to keep the site clean
- Print out copies of the Volunteer Registration forms and Accident/ Incident forms. All forms available on **our website**
- Ensure you have access to water at the site and toilet facilities if required
- The day before, send a reminder to volunteers about what to bring on the day relevant for your activity

Event

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- Event set up
- Carry out site walk-through ahead of event to ensure site is safe
- Set up registration desk, ensure Volunteer Registration forms and Photo-release forms are completed by all volunteers present
- Capture the day and share with our Tree Day community, tagging @nationaltreeday or @planetark on Instagram and Facebook #nationaltreeday #connectwithnature

Post-event

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- Make your efforts count and report your results to the Tree Day Support team on **our website**

PLEASE NOTE

This is intended as a guide only of things to consider in planning your event.



Here I sit.
Beneath a tree.
Heartbeat calm.
Soul hums free.


- Angie Weiland-Crosby

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