

Conservation Poster Contest Teacher Resources

This document contains compiled resources that relate to the [2024 Annual Conservation Poster Contest](#) theme: **May The Forest Be With You Always.**

Important Links

[Poster Contest Website](#)

[Poster Contest Registration Form](#)

[Poster Contest Registration & Entry Instructions](#)

[2024 Poster Contest Form](#) - *this form must be attached to the back of each poster using masking tape*

Questions? Contact louisa@knox-lincoln.org



National Association of Conservation Districts *May The Forest Be With You Always Resources*

[May The Forest Be With You Always Education and Lesson Plans Guide](#) – Download this document for best viewing experience. This guide covers a variety of topics relating forest to ecosystems, water conservation, sustainable agriculture, climate change, biodiversity conservation, land use planning, and environmental policy and advocacy. It is versatile and adaptable, accommodating different age groups, grade levels, and learning styles. The guide offers a variety of interactive, standards-aligned (NGSS, Common Core) activities, visually appealing materials, and discussion prompts encouraging further exploration and discovery.

Grades K-8

[May The Forest Be With You Always: Explore Nature's Wonders: My Ecosystem Journal](#) –

This activity book engages lower elementary students with stewardship of forest ecosystems.

Grades K-4

Learning Hubs

[Arbor Day Foundation Education Hub](#) – This web page includes activity pages, interactive online activities, and Tree ID videos created by Arbor Foundation, as well as the searchable [Tree Campus K-12 Resource Hub](#) which is a collection of tree-centric curriculum and activities sourced from a variety of organizations that have the power to connect students to trees. **Grades K-12**

[Maine Climate Education Hub \(maineclimatehub.org\)](#) – Explore a variety of climate teaching resources categorized by subject area ([including forests](#)), each accompanied by teaching tips, scientist notes, and Maine educational standards to make it easy to integrate climate change into what you already teach. **Grades K-8**

Lesson Plans

[Penn State Extension Forest Lesson Plans \(K-5\)](#) – A collection of hands-on lesson plans developed by educators that teach students about forestry and natural resources. Lessons include *The History of Maple Syrup*, *Trees and Their Parts*, *Beginning Forestry for Young Learners: Sorting and Classifying Leaves*, and *Identification of Playground Trees*. **Grades K-5**

[Penn State Extension Forest Lesson Plans \(6-8\)](#) – A collection of hands-on lesson plans developed by educators that teach students about forestry and natural resources. Lessons include *Who Cares About the Forest?* and *Using a Forest Setting to Learn to Carefully Observe and Question*. **Grades 6-8**

[Project Learning Tree – Explore Your Environment: K-8 Activity Guide](#) – This is Project Learning Tree's flagship curriculum resource and includes 50 hands-on, multidisciplinary activities to connect children to nature and increase young people's awareness and knowledge about their environment. This resource has a cost, so make sure to check out the free [plt.org/myk8guide](#) and check out [the summary of lesson plans](#). Feel free to contact Knox-Lincoln SWCD if you want help with accessing a specific lesson plan. **Grades K-8**

[Finding My Forest: Teacher's Guide to Discovering the Forest](#) – This guide provides four lessons, aligned with North American Association of Environmental Education standards, focused on providing the tools teacher need to integrate the wonder of forests right into their curriculum. **Grades 3-8**

[Oregon Forest Resources Institute: Learn Forests Curriculum](#) – This excellent resource is adapted for Oregon educators, but many of the lessons and content could be used in Maine. If you need help adjusting a lesson or story to apply to Maine forests, reach out to Knox-Lincoln SWCD for tips. **Grades K-12**

[Plant Heroes – Free Resources and Lesson Plans](#) – An excellent collection of accessible lesson plans aligned with Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core learning goals that features hands-on, nature-based learning materials designed by ecology and education experts to engage children in topics of forest health, ecology, and plant conservation. In addition to lesson plans, this resource also includes activities, fields guides, and more. **Grade K-5**

[Nature Conservancy – Seeing the Wood for the Trees: Introduction to Sustainable Forestry](#) – An excellent, standards-aligned lesson plan for older students (Grade 6) that introduces concepts concerning sustainable forestry. **Grades 6-8**

[National Wildlife Federation – Tree Detectives](#) – In this lesson plan, students practice observation skills and apply them to identifying trees in their neighborhood or school grounds. **Grades 3-6**

Activities

[USDA Forest Service – Discover The Forest](#) – This resource provides many ideas for outdoor activities that engage students with forests directly. This could provide ideas for potential homework assignments for students, as many of these activities are ones that parents can do with their children. **Grades K-8**

[Food and Agriculture Organization – State of the World’s Forests: Forests for Kids Learning Guide](#) – This learning guide for students provides excellent visualizations and content to introduce students to forests. The FAO produces a “State of the World’s Forests” publication biannually, and this publication is a children’s guide to the State of the World’s Forests. **Grades 3-6**

[Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource – Forests Are Fun! Activity Book](#) – A great activity book for younger students featuring trees, tree growth, and forest ecology. **Grades K-3**

[Ohio Public Library Information Network – What Tree Is It?](#) – Interactive tool for identifying trees. **Grades 3-6**

[Forest Kids App](#) – This is an interactive online game that teaches students about forests and biodiversity around the world. **Grades K-4**

[Treetures](#) – Treetures® are whimsical illustrated characters that guide children, PreK-3 and 4-6, through discovery activities that are developmentally appropriate and scientifically accurate. The Treetures help children learn about the way a tree functions and how important trees, plant life, birds, animals, and insects are to keeping our Earth healthy. **Grades K-4**

Suggested Books

Below is a selection of children's books that highlight the role of trees in ecosystems.

These books are all available for purchase from many retailers (in addition to being available through library systems). The links below are not representative of endorsement by Knox-Lincoln SWCD of any particular online retailer.

[The Busy Tree by Jennifer Ward and Lisa Falkenstern](#)

[Welcome to the Neighborwood by Shawn Sheehy](#)

[Because of an Acorn by Lola M. Schaefer, Adam Schaefer, and Frann Preston-Gannon](#)

[A Tree Is Nice by Janice May Udry, Marc Simont](#)

[Hidden World: Forest by Libby Walden and Stephanie Fizer Coleman](#)

[Green Planet: Life in our Woods and Forests \(Colors of the World\) by Moira Butterfield and Jonathan Woodward](#)

[Little Sap: The Magical Story of a Forest Family by Jan Hughes and Ruth Hengeveld](#)

[Peter and the Tree Children by Peter Wohlleben and Cale Atkinson](#)

[A Tree for All Seasons \(Rise and Shine\) by Robin Bernard](#)

Coloring Pages and Other Resources

[Minnesota DNR Tree Posters](#)

[Don't Move Firewood Coloring Pages](#)

[US Forest Service Leaf Coloring Pages](#)

[ExploringNature.com Coloring Pages](#)

[ExploringNature.com Posters](#)

[Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife – For Kids Who Like Messing Around in the Outdoors in Maine Coloring Book](#)