



## A Message Regarding Arbor Day Celebrations

We are all coming to terms with the worldwide spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), and each of us is affected by this pandemic in some way. At the Arbor Day Foundation, we are currently following the guidance of the CDC and WHO and are adjusting both our work environment and our plans for hosting events to match their recommendations for social distancing. You should consult your local or state authorities for restrictions that go beyond the general recommendations. Above all, stay safe and stay healthy.

The celebration of Arbor Day is central to our [mission](#) as well as our recognition programs. These events bring communities together to plant and tend the trees that make our cities and towns fulfilling places to live. But this year, prudence must override our desire to celebrate—at least in the same place at the same time. **Therefore, for calendar year 2020, we are waiving the requirement in each of our recognition programs to hold an Arbor Day Observance.** We want to eliminate the worry about continuing your years of participation in our programs, while offering options for how to proceed with a celebration of trees, should you so choose. These will be posted to our [webpage](#) in the days to come. We remain open to your ideas, yet flexible on meeting our program standards.

These are uncertain times, for sure. Follow the guidance for health and safety that is issued by local and state officials. Do the best you can to keep your city, campus, and utility tree care programs operating. Keep your staff and citizens healthy and safe. But don't worry about postponing or canceling your state, city or campus Arbor Day event and the impact on your eventual application for recognition.

Sincerely,  
Your tree friends at the Arbor Day Foundation