



Shade Trees on Playgrounds Program **S.T.O.P. the Risk of Skin Cancer in Children**

If your school needs added shade for your playground, the AFC can help! Up to 10 schools are chosen each year for the Shade Trees on Playgrounds (STOP) program, dedicated to planting shade trees on playgrounds to lower the risk of skin cancer in children. School applications are due May 26. Contact Alison Litchy: Alison.Litchy@arkansas.gov

As a STOP school, your school will receive:

- Five large hardwood trees, to provide shade on school playgrounds. AFC officials select hardwood species suitable for your specific area, and also provide mulch and water bags as needed for tree health.
- Reimbursement for travel to the STOP workshop on September 14, 2017
- Instruction on how to plant and maintain the trees.
- Ideas for curriculum related to trees.
- Speakers to emphasize to students the importance and value of trees.
- Support from your local AFC Urban Forestry representative.
- Staff assistance with STOP ceremony.

To participate in the STOP program a school must:

- Lack shade on the playground
- Participate in a STOP workshop to be held in central Arkansas, September 14 (location to be announced)
- Use AFC curriculum materials to emphasize the importance of trees during the week leading up to the tree planting event
- Involve students in tree-related projects that culminate with a tree planting ceremony
- Hold tree planting ceremony prior to October 31, 2017 (AFC helps you plan the ceremony and plant trees)
- Be willing to maintain the trees planted

In preparation for the ceremony, the schools should:

- Work with AFC personnel for preparation of tree planting ceremony by selecting a site, preparing/digging planting holes, and making sure that water is available
- Develop a program that involves the students, school personnel and community leaders
- Invite AFC personnel to make a presentation to students on the importance of trees to people and the environment; These programs include hands-on projects about trees

Contact:

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