

Junior Forest Wardens of Alberta

Answers to your most frequently asked questions about our Christmas Tree Lot:

Q: Where are you? You aren't near Cremona anymore?

A: We are 26 km south of TransCanada on Route 68 (Sibbald Creek Trail). From COP in Calgary, about 45 minutes drive. You'll have 15 minutes of well-maintained gravel road before arriving at the site. See map & directions link on previous webpage at ajfwa.ca

Q: What if it is cold or snowy?

A: If the weather is worse than -35 C including wind chill, we do not expect our JFW families to travel out to the lot to operate it, so it would operate on a self-serve basis in very cold conditions. The road is plowed regularly, but winter tires are certainly recommended. Check the weather network link for forecasts and be prepared.

Q: How does the Covid19 Problem Affect the Tree Lot?

A: Please follow current covid 19 safety measures as directed by AHS. [AHS Link](#)

Please note that this year we will again be able to host a concession and fire pit! We ask that only 1 family member go to the permit booth please .

Q: What kind of trees are they, are they nice trees?

A: They are all lodgepole pine in various stages of growth. The site is a replanted area done in 1992, and the trees vary from 4 to 5 feet to well over 30 feet in some cases. Most people find they can take down a larger, fuller tree and just take the top 8 feet home. As long as you cut the trunk to within 12" of the ground, that option is okay. You can take the extra branches or we'll recycle them. Most trees coming out of there now are very full and bushy, but bare spots can happen on natural trees. Some people opt to buy two trees, snip some branches from the second tree, drill holes into the trunk of the better tree, and pare the ends to put into the holes, making a super-full single tree. I have done it this way - they look great and the water manages to soak into the new branches, keeping them fresh.

Q: What do we need to bring?

A: Unfortunately this year we will not have any saws to sign out, so please bring your own saw. Axes don't work as easily, but can be an option. Chainsaws are overkill for a single tree with a 6" diameter trunk (not to mention the noise). Also consider how you are getting the tree home and bring tarps, tie downs, rope, whatever you need to accomplish that safely with the vehicle you are driving.

Q: Are dogs welcome?

A: Leashed dogs are welcome, but problems occur when there are too many dogs running loose, and dog fights have occurred which is dangerous and frightening for most people. There are also lots of young children around. Of course you are also expected to control and clean up after your dogs.

Q: What if we can't come during the weekend open hours?

A: The entry gate will be locked on weekdays, and on weekends before 9:00 a.m. and after 3:00 pm. The lot will be unstaffed during these hours. You can park on the road outside the gate, and use our self-service by taking an envelope from our mailbox, removing the permit and replacing it with a donation, then drop back into the mail slot on the wall of the shack.

Q: Who gets the funding from the Tree Lot operation?

A: The Christmas Tree Lot is a seasonal fundraiser for Junior Forest Wardens, an outdoor program for youth and their families. Each club in the Calgary JFW District staffs the lot for one day during our season. Our teens (Adventurers & Challengers) and our Calgary JFW Society Council also take on one day. We pool the funding and distribute it between the participating CJFWS groups. However, on November 26, 2020, the Government of Alberta removed the \$5 permit fee. With the removal of the permit fee any donations to our program will be graciously accepted.