

Forest Field Days Program Overview for Volunteers

Thank you for your interest in Forest Field Days! The information in this document will orient you to our organization and the Forest Field Day volunteer opportunity. The first page describes the program, and the second page gives important information about your volunteer day. Please read through and feel free to contact me with questions.

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Forests Today and Forever For 30 + years, Forests Today & Forever has been *promoting forest stewardship through education*. We provide programs to educate the public about forest management to a variety of ages in a variety of venues. We operate with a 12-person board, a director, three part-time educators, and a cadre of volunteers.



Forest Field Days The Forest Field Day (FFD) program is FTF's largest program, with more than 1,500 students participating annually. Volunteers come from the timber industry, non-profits, government agencies, the educational community, and the business community. It takes more than 130 volunteers each year to run this program!

Forest Field Days Program Description There are three components to this program: (1) an in-class curriculum, (2) a scenario-based forest management plan project, and (3) a field trip, which FTF and volunteers facilitate.

The classroom curriculum teaches students about forest ecology and sustainable forest management as students work through lessons and activities. The classroom portion also guides students through a scenario-based group project. The project requires that students are in groups of four or five, where each student in the group represents a different natural resource consultant hired by the Peterson-Wald family. Students must work together to reconcile the different priorities of the Peterson-Wald family within budgetary constraints to develop a five-year management plan for their forest. Learn more about the [role play characters](#) here.

During the field trip, students learn about forestry while immersed in a working forest and learning directly from professionals and experts how forest resources are managed and protected. Each station supports student understanding of sustainable forest management and offers practical learning that supports classroom objectives. The experience also supports students in developing their forest management plans. Here are brief descriptions of each station:

1. Timber- focuses on the tools, techniques, and calculations used to measure a stand of trees and determine its age, health, and monetary value.
2. Soil & Water - Students learn soil identification, components of healthy soil, the concepts of compaction and erosion; and understand riparian issues such as plant life, fish habitat and water flow.
3. Wildlife- students identify wildlife through scat, tracks & nests; dissecting owl pellets; and by taking a walk to look for wildlife and signs of wildlife.
4. Recreation- students hike a 1/2-mile loop stopping at sites to discuss safe and responsible recreation in the forest.

SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR PRACTICAL INFORMATION ☺

Forest Field Days Volunteer Information

Training Volunteer Leader Guides are available on our website. The guides are specific to the station that you signed up for. Please read through the guide in advance of your volunteer date. We like for new volunteers to come out to the site to learn about the program, or to observe a FFD in action if that is possible. We understand busy schedules, though, and know that this is not an option for many people. If you would like to make time for this, please let us know.

Site Directions We host our programs at Bauman Tree Farm. Here is information about the tree farm. You can find [directions and a map](#) to the site here and on our website.

1. *Bauman Tree Farm*- 84289 Territorial Rd, Eugene. The property is 15 minutes south of the Eugene intersection of W. Eleventh and Greenhill Road. Go south on Greenhill (it becomes Crow Road) to Territorial, turn left and go about four miles. It's on the left, at Milepost 29 across from Willow Springs Farm. **Please drive 15mph on gravel roads.** Continue to straight to volunteer parking area (a sign is posted)

Timeframe Schools are scheduled to arrive anytime between 9:00am and 10:00am. We ask volunteers to be there between 8:15am and 8:30am depending upon arrival time. An email is sent to you in advance of your day to confirm your arrival time. Schools leave the site anywhere from 1:00pm and 2:30pm, and volunteers can depart directly after students.

Schedule There are four 40-50 minute sessions in which the students rotate between stations, and a short (20 minute) lunch break. You will facilitate your station several times during the day.

When you Arrive Follow signs from your vehicle to Forest Field Days (don't forget to bring your lunch!), then proceed to the meadow and connect with a FTF staff member so that you can be oriented to your station, and collect any new information. You will also be asked to do a Station Safety Check, where you check your station to ensure everything looks safe and in good condition. There is an Orientation each morning to learn details about the day and about the student group who will be attending.

Dress It's Oregon! Dress in layers and for all types of weather. The mornings can be quite chilly. There are not indoor spaces to warm up, but we strive to have a dry spot for each station in case of a downpour - but the show goes on rain or shine! ☺

Lunch & Hospitality Pack a lunch and bring it with you from your vehicle to the meadow. You will have about 20 minutes in the middle of the day to enjoy a break. FTF provides coffee, water, and pastries in a shelter especially set up with seating for volunteers.

Goal for the Day A fun and educational time with the students! We look forward to seeing you in the woods!