

WOOD MAGIC FOREST FAIR

An environmental education program for 5th graders

Job Description for

GUIDE

Overview

The guide assigned to each class is the first person the teacher and students will interact with when they arrive at the Fair. The level of enthusiasm that this person displays will set the tone for the rest of the day. **So, be enthusiastic!** Let them know you are glad they came and that you're excited about what they will be doing and seeing that day.

Procedure

1. At the bus - A guide can make a favorable first impression by taking the initiative to **introduce himself/herself to the teacher as she gets off the bus**. Tell her who you are, where you live, and what you do (student at Central Carolina Tech, forester with Westvaco in Summerville, etc.). Make it clear to her that your sole purpose of being at the Fair is to assist her in any way you can.

- a. **Class arrives 15+ minutes early** – tell the teacher that s/he has time for the kids to go to the restroom if needed. Introduce yourself to the kids and discuss your job in forestry or the role of a forester. At **10 minutes** before the Introduction is scheduled to start, gather the kids up and get them to walk to the front of the building (in a line) for picture taking.
- b. **Class arrives less than 15 minutes before start time:** greet teacher at bus and help her get the students to the front of the building for picture taking.
- c. **Class arrives late:** Check with Matt Schnabel or Beth Foley about what to do (If they are just a few minutes late, they will be allowed to go to the Introduction. Otherwise, they will be directed to another area until the beginning of the next class period – Matt or Beth may be able to change the schedule so that they do not miss the introduction.) Either way greet them at the bus.

2. Picture Taking: Michelle Johnson is the Forestry Commission photographer who will have her camera set up near the front of the building. Her primary job is to take care of the technical aspect of the picture taking. You as a guide will need to help her to get the kids in position on the steps. Guides will not be included in class pictures, but chaperones might be (it's up to the teacher). Your leadership in getting the kids to stand still and smile at Michelle will go a long way in making sure that this part of the Fair is a success.

3. Stations: Guides need to take the lead, **walk ahead of the class to each station and showing them where to sit**. As you walk between stations, you can keep their enthusiasm up by asking them questions about what they just saw or did (see “Take Home Points” paper on the clipboard you will have). You can also give them hints of what they about to see and do, helping to build their anticipation.

4. Forestry Equipment & Popcorn Break – The popcorn eating does not take the entire 25 minutes. Do not let this become a run around time—that is distracting to other stations. Make a stop by the restrooms, forestry equipment, and do the “Tree Cookie” mini-lesson (at the end of this document) with the extra time. There will be another class at this station at the same time, so try to stager what you do with them (if they are at the bathrooms, go to the equipment and vice versa). They will only need 10 minutes to eat.

5. Lunch: Give each student a small amount of hand sanitizer, then direct them to the lunch line. Again, please stay with your class and lend whatever assistance may be needed. Be proactive – encourage the kids to eat all of their lunch and ask if anyone needs to use the restroom. If there is time during lunch, you can take them out to the forestry equipment on display, but keep a close eye on them and coordinate this with the teacher. Do not let children wander off or drift toward the other stations. It is important that you monitor the noise as there are classes going on nearby.

6. Magic Show/Conclusion: Like the arrival time, the conclusion and departure time is a critical phase of the Fair. It is important that the students and teachers leave with the feeling that they have benefited from the day’s activities and that they want to come back next year. This can be accomplished by attention to detail during the last minutes of the Fair.

At the end of the show, the children will be dismissed by class and will walk in a line out of the front door and down the sidewalk. **You will not hand the students their bags** (magic show instructors will do that), but you will need to make sure each child gets a bag. You can share their enthusiasm by asking them to show you what they have received. Your last task is to lead them to their bus, which will be at the same place as it was when they arrived. An enthusiastic “Good-bye!” will serve as a fitting conclusion for a great day at the Wood Magic Forest Fair.

7. End of the day: If you have any suggestions or comments after the event please see Matt or Beth and let them know your concerns.

8. Prep for the next day: If possible please plan to stay an additional few minutes to help prepare materials or clean-up for the next day. This can be a quick task if there are several people doing this.

Thank you for your willingness to serve! Please let us know if you have questions or if there is anything we can do to make your experience at SC’s Wood Magic Forest Fair more enjoyable.

WOOD MAGIC FOREST FAIR

An environmental education program for 5th graders

Quick Reference for GUIDES

1. **Arrival** – Greet the teachers **at the bus** when they get off and help line up the students for their class pictures.
2. **Class picture** - Help the teacher get the kids organized on the front steps.
3. **Introduction** - Help get kids settled (seated together) in conference room– start seating them at the front and work back. Take the lead in getting the kids out of the building – exit to rear, turn left– and to first station.
4. **Between stations** - Interact with them as you walk – as they ask questions about what they heard and saw. Make sure they **walk** behind you.
5. **At stations** - Help teacher keep order– sit with kids instead of with other adults – help keep the kids focused on what instructors are saying.
6. **Popcorn break** – Take kids to lunch tent for popcorn and a drink. Make sure they use the restroom if needed during this time. Once they have finished, go over the tree cookie lesson with them and show them the forestry equipment.
7. **Lunch** – Go to the hand washing station first. Direct them to get lemonade/water and their choice of 2 slices of pizza, then have them sit together. Teachers may also get pizza and a water or a soda from the cooler. (Please sit with them instead of with other adults.) Supervise bathroom break. Encourage them to eat quickly.
8. **Magic Show** – Seat them together as for the Introduction. Help hand out kids’ bags to the instructors at end and get them headed toward the bus.
9. **First Aid** – If a child gets sick or hurt, escort them to the First Aid Station, where someone will take care of them.
10. **Be aggressive!** Help kids stay focused at stations, get them excited about the station they’re going to, and see what you can do to help the teacher during the day. Generally, the more you interact with the kids, the better day both you and they will have!
11. **Student discipline** – It is the responsibility of the teacher, not you, to discipline the students while they are attending the fair. Point out any unacceptable behavior to the teacher in a friendly manner and ask for their help.

****NOTE:** You should not be alone with a student. If a student needs to be taken somewhere away from the group (such as to the bathroom), then the teacher or chaperone should take them.

****NOTE:** Appropriate attire for a guide is a Wood Magic t-shirt (you will be given one when you come to the registration table) and jeans or khaki pants. Company or agency logos are fine to be worn while serving as a guide (or other staff) at Wood Magic. (We are all part of Wood Magic while working at the Fair – sort of one, big, forestry melting pot!)

WOOD MAGIC FOREST FAIR

An environmental education program for 5th graders

Mission

The purpose of the Wood Magic Forest Fair is to provide information to students and their teachers about the sustainable management of forest resources and the role of forests and forest products in their daily lives.

Major Objectives

Upon completion of the WMFF program, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an awareness that our society depends on forests for many products we use every day and that these products improve our quality of life.
2. Explain the difference between renewable and non-renewable natural resources and apply the reduce-reuse-recycle principles of conservation.
3. Recognize that many different management techniques are required to insure long-term sustainability of our forests.
4. Describe the many environmental, social, and economic benefits of our forests.

Synopsis (Harbison State Forest location referenced here)

I. Pre-work

Teachers will be sent the pre-visit activities including short “Forest Fast Break” videos produced by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, and will be given questions to ask students following the videos.

II. Arrival

Each class will be met by guide, who will lead them to stations. Before the introduction a class picture will be taken and students will have an opportunity to go to the restroom.

III. Introduction

Two to three classes at a time will assemble in the auditorium of the education center. Students will be introduced to the concept that they use forest products every day. They will watch a video followed by a short period of questions.

IV. Forestry Equipment

Students will take a quick restroom /water break then assemble at the forestry equipment. The instructor will discuss the cycle of planting, growing, and harvesting trees in an environmentally friendly way.

IV. Board Cuttin’

Students will learn about how lumber is made by watching an old-fashioned sawmill cut boards out of a log. Students will see a planer, an edger, will also feel bark, sawdust and will discuss other products.

V. Bad Fire, Good Fire

Students will see a “short” fire tower and a prescribed burned area. Instructor will lead them in a discussion of wildfire and foresters’ use of prescribed fire (wildlife habitat, hazard reduction, competition reduction, regeneration). Student(s) will dress up in firefighting clothes.

VI. Gifts of the Forest

Instructor will lead them in a discussion of the many benefits of forests (wildlife habitat, soil & water quality protection, air & noise filtering, recreation, social benefits, and economic benefits – incl. jobs). Students will play a game where they figure out the category of a benefit of forests and group themselves with others who have a similar card.

VII. Makin’ Paper

Instructor asks them questions about garbage, discusses landfill problems and how recycling paper can help. Each student recycles toilet tissue by breaking it up in water, screening it, and drying it to create a piece of paper s/he can take home.

VIII. Magic Show (Wrap-up)

Through the use of sleight-of-hand, students are taught that you cannot always believe what you see or hear. Through the use of student “volunteers” they come to an understanding of how long it takes trees to grow and how many different forest products they use every day. It will conclude with “Blowing Bubbles,” a demonstration of how air can pass through red oak wood.

IX. Teacher Packets

Teachers will be given an Educator’s Guide to the Wood Magic Forest Fair which will contain several PLT lessons, a lesson plan to go along with the “Blowing Bubbles,” and other information on trees and forestry. Various forestry publications are included that emphasize the importance of the environment, the value of wood products, and the need for balance in using trees. Students as well as teachers will also receive Wood Magic T-shirts and other memorabilia.

TAKE-HOME POINTS

- 1. In South Carolina, we plant 5 trees for every tree that is harvested.**
- 2. There are more trees today in America than there was 100 years ago.**
- 3. Trees are a renewable natural resource that can be managed on a sustainable basis.**
- 4. They (the students) use forest products every day.**
- 5. We grow and harvest trees to provide many benefits.**
- 6. The growing and harvesting of trees is done in an environmentally friendly way, taking care of the soil and water quality, wildlife, and other aspects of the environment.**

TREE COOKIE LESSON

This is a quick and easy lesson that should be done during the popcorn break. A tree cookie, DBH tape, and Biltmore stick will be available for use and located at the lunch tent.

- 1. Why do trees have rings?** (These are growth rings that are put on annually)
- 2. Do you know why the rings have different colors?** (Each annual growth ring has two parts: a light ring (early wood) and a dark ring (late wood). The early wood grows during the wet spring growing season. During the transition from the drier summer to fall/winter, growth slows and the late wood forms.)
- 3. Count the rings and discuss what could affect their shape and size.** (Drought, competition, insect damage, fire scar, growth on an incline, etc.)
- 4. If a forester wanted to know the volume of a tree, what would he measure?** (Tree height and diameter – can use a Biltmore stick scale to calculate volume)
- 5. Take students over to a nearby pine tree and demonstrate how the DBH tape works.** (Measure the circumference of the tree at 4.5 feet high, reading the red side of the tape. The side is converted to give you the diameter measurement.)
- 6. Show Biltmore stick conversion chart.** (This saves a forester a lot of time! If you feel comfortable, show how a forester can also use it to measure height and DBH.)