

W O O D M A G I C F O R E S T F A I R

An environmental education program for 4th 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

I. Pre-work

Teachers will be sent the 15-minute video “The Miracle Resource”, produced by the Temperate Forest Foundation, and will be given questions to ask students following video.

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 conference room of 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. 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. Seeds will be inserted into the paper before drying so that the paper can be reused by planting it at home or at school.

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. Also included in the teacher packets will be an interactive CD entitled “Forests Forever.” This CD, produced by the South Carolina Forestry Association, emphasizes 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.