

Parent FAQs



What kind of tree will we get?

- Species will be announced in early April. Neighborhood Forest aims to provide native tree or fruit/nut-bearing trees in all the regions we serve. Last year, we gave away 14 different species! We provide species on a state-by-state basis and like to offer different species each year to promote variety and diversity.

When will my tree be arriving and will it be shipped directly to my address?

- We aim to have the trees arrive at your school, library, or youth group leader in time for Earth Day. If you are ordering your free tree from your child's school, your child should bring the tree home when it is distributed at their school around Earth Day (April 22).
- If you are ordering your tree through a library or youth group, you will need to pick up your tree from your institution when it arrives. You should be contacted by your institution when trees are ready for pickup.
- If you have not received your tree(s) by April 24, please contact the Neighborhood Forest Coordinator at your institution. Contact details can be found in your tree registration confirmation email.

What if I ordered any of the Educational or Eco-Shop items?

- These items will be fulfilled by Neighborhood Forest and shipped directly to your home. Free trees and purchased trees will be sent to your institution. If you have additional questions, please contact us at info@neighborhoodforest.org.

How do I care for my tree to ensure that it grows and thrives?

- We encourage you to review our [Tree Planting Guide](https://www.neighborhoodforest.org/tree-planting-guide/) for best practices on planting and caring for your tree. <https://www.neighborhoodforest.org/tree-planting-guide/>
- We strongly recommend protecting your tree with a fence to protect it from animals, lawnmowers, and weed whackers.



What do I do if the ground hasn't thawed in my region yet?

- Keep your tree in a cool location (like an unheated garage, shed, porch, or basement). Avoid bringing it into a warm indoor space for long periods—this can confuse the tree and cause stress.
- Make sure the roots stay moist—but not soggy! We recommend misting with water when the soil plug is beginning to dry. Plant as soon as the soil is thawed and workable (you can dig without hitting ice) and there is no risk of deep refreezing.
- (Deciduous Trees): If buds begin to open, move it to a cool space with indirect light (near a window, not full sun).

My child's tree looks like a stick - is it alive?

- Sometimes deciduous trees look like just a stick because they are still dormant and may not have visible buds yet. If the soil and roots are moist, the tree is alive!

What if I don't have a yard or place to plant my tree?

Can I plant my tree in a pot?

- Consider planting your tree on a willing family member, friend or neighbor's property.
- Ideally, you want to plant your tree in the ground, outside, in a permanent location where you can watch and care for its growth. Initially planting in a pot can lead to more severe "transplant shock" later on when you plant your tree in the ground.
- Ask your institution if they are on our Indoor Plant Program waitlist for the upcoming Fall. Our Indoor Plant Program serves kids who may not have access to a yard to plant a tree, to care for a little piece of nature inside their home.



What if my child's tree dies?

- We understand that not every tree survives and thrives, and we want you to know that this is okay—it's a natural part of the process. This experience helps us appreciate the beauty and resilience of the trees we see around us and reminds us how truly amazing it is for a tree to reach maturity.
- We hope you'll try again next year if your institution participates in our programming for the following Earth Day!

How does Neighborhood Forest fund all of these free trees?

- Our program is completely free and is funded by generous individuals, organizations, and businesses.
- Neighborhood Forest is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization (EIN: 86-2929372) dedicated to giving kids their very own tree every Earth Day.