

National
TreeDay[®]
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Site Coordinator Activities Guide

Each year, site coordinators from all walks of life have encouraged their community to take part in Planet Ark's National Tree Day. Their involvement has provided support and care for our Australian environment, helped develop and reinforce connections with the local community and is a fun and rewarding experience for the participants.

This Site Coordinator Activities Guide has been compiled by Planet Ark with consideration of responses given through past site coordinator surveys. It outlines a range of activities that have already been implemented in past planting sites as well as ideas for easy and accessible activities that require little resources or cost.

Site coordinators are welcome to use whichever components they wish from the guide.

Planet Ark would like to thank the site coordinators that have contributed to the success of National Tree Day over the years and who have contributed to this guide.

Planet Ark CEO



National Tree Day is organised by Planet Ark in partnership with Toyota Prius



Activity	Additional activities for your planting site
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides additional activities for the community to get involved with. They will be very open to learning more after their involvement in a tree planting activity.
Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composting or worm farming workshops. Consider supplying subsidised worm farms or compost bins or getting local suppliers to attend. • Native plant and mulch giveaway. Helps educate local residents who do not know which native plants to choose. Perhaps your local community nursery could also have a stall. • Organise a visit from a mobile zoo. Select native animals and reptiles that would normally inhabit your local area so you can educate your community about what animals will return to rehabilitated areas. For a list of mobile zoos in your state, visit http://treeday.planetark.org. • Collaborate with local suppliers of green products and ask them to have a stand at your event. • Display common questions that volunteers may have (in an open question format) to encourage them to ask staff the answer. e.g. ‘What kind of plants are native to this area?’ or ‘What fauna can I attract by planting this tree?’
Coordinator Comments	<p>“We have had an involvement with our local landcare group Friends of Toolern Creek for 3 years now. When we first got involved they encouraged us with their dedication and ability to make changes to the environment. They also have been and continue to be enthusiastic about our own efforts at school to change that environment to self sustaining, environmentally friendly and drought tolerant, so the least we could do was support their efforts in the wider community.”</p>

Planet Ark has developed a detailed “Getting Started Guide”, including sections on; How to organise your site; What you need on the day; Promoting within your community; Essential tools; Product suppliers and more. This is available at <http://treeday.planetark.org/coords>.



Activity	Kids' activities to have at your tree planting and tree care sites
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement and fun! • Can assist with education on conservation issues • Extra things to do when all the trees have been planted!
Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional activities can be particularly useful at high volume sites. • Many projects can be implemented with little cost and are a great incentive for families to get involved at your tree-planting site. • Planet Ark has developed a suite of activities that can be downloaded at http://treeday.planetark.org/coords. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental treasure hunts and scavenger hunts. • Explorer's Logbook. • Get the kids to make pots out of papier-mache. They can then use these pots for growing their own seedlings. • Ask them to do a tree count at your planting site. How many are there? What types are they? Are they native or introduced? Trees for beauty or trees for homes? Fully grown or newly planted? • Make an artwork out of man-made materials that haven't been disposed of properly e.g. aluminium cans, scrap paper, plastics etc. • Colouring pages and activity sheets.
Coordinator Comments	<p>"We had a drawing competition through our local paper. Several schools drew what they considered "Important Environmental Aspects" on 2 litre cartons - the cartons will be used at future plantings as guards".</p>

Activity	Getting additional support and funds
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of plants and other resources • Expert advice on environmental care and protection
Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To raise funds, consider approaching a local business to provide prizes for a raffle draw or competition. Use the proceeds to raise money for buying seedlings, mulch and tools. • Some organisations have placed offers of help on the National Tree Day website. Visit http://treeday.planetark.org or call 1300 88 5000 to find out if any organisations near you are interested in offering their help. • Hold a swap party. Swap items such as clothing, books, CDs etc. Make sure participants only bring high-quality items and a gold coin entry donation. You can hold a swap party at your National Tree Day event to help boost volunteer numbers and gather funding for future tree care events.
Coordinator Comments	<p>"The Green Team holds a fundraising mufti day to celebrate World Environment Day in June. They collect a gold coin from each participant which is used to fund a bus to take the planters to a site."</p>



Activity	Get involved with Schools Tree Day
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates links with local schools Fosters a sense of public space ownership by students
Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide plants and/or labour to help local schools and their tree planting/tree care projects. If the schools don't have enough space for their Tree Day event, invite them to your public site as a school excursion. Often teachers will appreciate this as it alleviates much of the cost of getting involved in a tree-planting program but also teaches students valuable lessons about the environment. Don't restrict yourself to tree planting! Local schools can be contacted to help manage previously planted areas or areas in need of repair on a regular basis, getting involved in mulching, weeding, follow-up watering, maintaining tree guards and more. Consider having a long-term program with the schools. The initial tree-planting event can be used as a launching pad for extended programs. In addition to your planting activity consider having a bushcare or environment officer available to visit local schools to talk about native plants and animals.
Coordinator Comments	<p>"I registered the site on Lake Colac because we had unfinished plantings from the previous year. I wanted to include as many different groups on the same day to work together side by side to make Lake Colac walkway a feature of the town. Over 350 students including disability workers and secondary students took ownership to complete the 21,000 indigenous plants over the year."</p>

Activity	Getting volunteers to your site
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater community engagement and community involvement
Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register your public sites with Planet Ark to ensure we can direct the general public to sites in their area. A RSVP facility is also available to site coordinators so that you'll be able to keep track of the number of attendees at your site. A letterbox drop in the local area around the tree-planting site can be very effective in gathering interest from volunteers. Download a template prepared by Planet Ark at http://treeday.planetark.org/coords. Put up posters around your planting site and at community noticeboards. Planet Ark has developed posters, both adaptable and non-adaptable, which can be downloaded from http://treeday.planetark.org/coords. Speak to local businesses. Some are willing to put up posters about your event for a few days to let their customers know what's going on in their community. Collect names and addresses on the day so you can contact them again for more tree care days.
Coordinator Comments	<p>Surveys show word of mouth, the Planet Ark website and local flyers and posters are the most effective way to promote your site.</p>



National Tree Day Contact Details

National Tree Day Hotline: 1300 88 5000

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