

Michigan Tree Seedling Pilot Project - Help us Give-away Seedlings to Students and Celebrate Arbor Day!



In 2021-2022, the **Michigan Arbor Day Alliance (MADA)** is launching a new tree seedling pilot program for fourth graders in the state of Michigan. During covid times, we are learning to pivot from our traditional model of celebrating Arbor Day by the hundreds at Potter Park Zoo and are encouraging youth to celebrate in other ways.

What better way to celebrate Arbor Day than to get a tree in the hands of children and educate them about why we need to plant trees? We are encouraging tree plantings across the state, both in urban and rural communities. Planting a tree helps youth establish important connections to nature and the trees in our communities. We chose fourth grade for this pilot project because it is a great prelude to our annual Fifth Grade Arbor Day Poster Contest. We will be working with Wyman Nursery located in Manistique, MI to supply the white, red and Jack pine seedlings for the students. Arbor Day bookmarks with tree facts/information for how to plant a tree will be available for each student receiving a seedling.

We are asking **Conservation District's** across the state to sign up for this program to help bundle/distribute seedlings to fourth grade classes in their communities. Help us make a great impact on today's youth and connect them to our natural resources!

Getting the Seedlings to the District's

- Deadline to submit an application to this pilot project is **February 15, 2022**. You must submit your application with the number of classes that have committed to receiving the seedlings and the number of seedlings being requested. Please see the *teacher letterhead draft* with the application form.
- All seedlings will be shipped to your Conservation District and paid for by the Michigan Arbor Day Alliance. Applicants will be notified if their request was accepted no later than **March 15, 2022**.

Stipends Available for the District's

- Applicants shall receive a stipend of **.50 cents per seedling** requested to help cover the cost of wrapping supplies and any mileage acquired through dropping off the seedlings to the schools. District's **may be reimbursed up to 300 seedlings, or \$150 per District**, but you may request more than 300 seedlings.

Requirements of the program:

- Conservation Staff reach out to fourth grade teachers in their community to gauge interest in this program and the free seedlings for students (must send draft letter provided with attached teacher application form)
- Staff and/or Volunteers has capacity to bundle the requested individual seedlings

- Conservation Staff and/or Volunteers responsible for coordinating drop off/pick up of seedlings to fourth grade classes in their community. We expect to get seedlings to you by late April/early May. All seedlings need to be distributed to the fourth grade classes by **May 27, 2022 (somewhat flexible)**.

Please direct any questions about the program to Hannah Reynolds, the Arbor Day Program Coordinator at miarborday@gmail.com