Trees for Troops Fact Sheet

About Trees for Troops

Christmas Tree growers have been providing free trees for military families for many years. In 2005, FedEx contacted the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation, the 501(c)(3) charitable branch of the National Christmas Tree Association, and wanted to be involved in the foundation’s mission. Together the two organizations expanded the idea of providing Christmas Trees to military families, and Trees for Troops was born.

Since 2005, more than 225,319 free, farm-grown Christmas Trees have been provided to troops and military families in the United States and overseas through Trees for Troops. Thousands of trees are donated by American farm families and the public, and FedEx delivers these trees to more than 70 military bases in the U.S. and overseas. FedEx has logged more than 800,000 U.S. miles for the Trees for Troops program.

Honors and Recognitions

The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation was awarded the Best in America Seal of Excellence. The Independent Charities Seal of Excellence is awarded to charities that have been able to certify, document, and demonstrate on an annual basis that they meet the highest standards of public accountability, program effectiveness, and cost effectiveness. It is estimated that fewer than 5 percent of charities meet or exceed these standards, and, of those, fewer than 4 percent have been awarded this seal.

In 2017, Trees for Troops was honored to win The Department of Defense - Spirit of Hope Award. Trees for Troops was nominated for the award by the U.S. Coast Guard. The award is given annually by each branch of the military to groups that epitomize Bob Hope's values of patriotism, loyalty, freedom and dedication. Winning this award was a highlight of the season.

In 2012, Trees for Troops was honored at the White House as a top 20 national finalist in the Joining Forces Community Challenge, an initiative started by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden to recognize organizations that provide exemplary service and support to military families.

By The Numbers

Since 2005, Trees for Troops has provided more than 225,319 Christmas Trees to military families and troops in all branches of the military at more than 70 bases in the U.S. and overseas.

In 2018, Trees for Troops delivered 16,599 farm-grown Christmas Trees. Trees were donated by roughly 450 Christmas Tree growers, retailers and their customers in 25 states. Donations were received through individual farms, the collective efforts of state and regional Christmas Tree associations, and Trees for Troops weekend.

Hundreds of donors and volunteers participate each year to make Trees for Troops happen.
**Trees for Troops Weekend**

Trees for Troops Weekend is an annual event during which Christmas Tree farms, retail lots and nurseries across the country volunteer to host a trailer (provided by FedEx) to gather donations and donate Christmas Trees. In 2018, 12 collection sites participated, gathering more than 4,000 donated trees.

Members of the National Christmas Tree Association and many state and regional Christmas Tree associations participate in Trees for Troops Weekend, usually held the first weekend in December.

Consumers can donate funds or Christmas Trees by visiting one of these 25 locations and are encouraged to write personal messages on the tree tags that accompany donated trees. There are also opportunities to donate remotely for those not located near one of the official locations.

**One Thousand Tree Campaign**

The One Thousand Tree Campaign provides a convenient new way to support Trees for Troops AND will allow us to send more Christmas trees to military families that request them. Each year, we have some requests that we are not able to meet because we don’t have enough trees donated. Each $40 to the Campaign will help bridge that gap and deliver more trees to military families that are spending holidays separated from love ones.

**How You Can Get Involved**

- Buy a tree for a military family online and support the program through the One Thousand Tree Campaign. Go to [www.TreesForTroops.org/dnn/Donate.aspx](http://www.TreesForTroops.org/dnn/Donate.aspx) for details.

- Follow Trees for Troops on Facebook, Pinterest and Twitter and share our posts with your social networks.

- Donate funds online at [www.TreesForTroops.org](http://www.TreesForTroops.org). The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and donations are tax deductible.

- Double your donation: some employers will match your charitable donations. Check with your company’s human resources department to see if your employer offers a charitable matching program.

- If you are a federal employee, select #12283 in the Combined Federal Campaign.

- When you purchase your family’s tree, ask your Christmas Tree retailer if they are involved in Trees for Troops (look for “We Support Trees for Troops” signs) and make a donation. Many Christmas Tree retailers accept donations or provide other opportunities to support the program.

- During Trees for Troops Weekend, visit one of the participating farms, lots or retail locations to purchase a Christmas Tree or make a monetary donation.

- To learn more, visit our website at [www.TreesForTroops.org](http://www.TreesForTroops.org) or email info@TreesForTroops.org.

**Connect with Trees for Troops**

[Social media icons]