



## **Christmas SPIRIT Foundation**

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## **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 243,955 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 75 military bases in the U.S. and overseas. FedEx has logged more than 959,551 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 meet or exceed these standards, and, of those, fewer than 4 percent have been awarded this seal.

In 2017, Trees for Troops, was honored as a recipient of the 2017 Spirit of Hope Award in a ceremony at the Pentagon. The Spirit of Hope Award, established in 1997, is named for comedian and actor Bob Hope and recognizes current and former military members, civilians and organizations that epitomize his values of patriotism, loyalty, freedom, and dedication.

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.

In 2009, CSF received a Halo Award from the Cause Marketing Forum for the implementation of the Trees for Troops program. This award recognizes outstanding cause marketing campaigns, which is an alliance between a non-profit and a corporate entity who join together for a cause.

### **By the Numbers**

Since 2005, Trees for Troops has provided more than 243,955 Christmas Trees to military families and troops in all branches of the military at more than 75 bases in the U.S. and overseas.

In 2019, Trees for Troops delivered 18,636 farm-grown Christmas Trees. Trees were donated by roughly 400 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 2019, 14 collection sites participated, gathering more than 3,500 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.

## **How You Can Get Involved**

- Follow Trees for Troops on Facebook, Pinterest and Twitter and share our posts with your social networks.
- Donate funds online at <https://www.christmasspiritfoundation.org/Donate>. 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). Many Christmas Tree retailers accept donations or provide other opportunities to support the program.
- During Trees for Troops Weekend, visit one of the participating tree farms, Christmas Tree lots or retail locations to purchase a Christmas Tree or make a monetary donation.
- To learn more, visit our website at <https://christmasspiritfoundation.org/trees-for-troops> or email [info@TreesForTroops.org](mailto:info@TreesForTroops.org).

## **Connect with Trees for Troops**

