



Christmas SPIRIT Foundation
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2012 Trees for Troops Fast Facts

About Trees for Troops

Christmas Tree growers have been providing free trees for military families for 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 103,000 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 60 military bases in the U.S. and overseas. FedEx has logged more than 352,000 U.S. miles for the Trees for Troops program.

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.

Background

In 2005, the National Christmas Tree Association:

- Created the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization to advance the spirit of Christmas year-round for kids, families and the environment.
- Developed plans for a national Trees for Troops program that could unify the individual programs of tree growers and state Christmas Tree associations.
- Partnered with FedEx Corporation to provide the tractor trailers, shipping and logistics for the Real Christmas Trees to be picked up and delivered to military bases.

Trees for Troops Statistics

- Since 2005, Trees for Troops has provided 103,186 Christmas Trees to military families and troops in all branches of the military at 69 bases in the U.S. and overseas.
- In 2011, Trees for Troops hit an all-time high by delivering 19,229 farm-grown Christmas Trees (18,769 within the U.S. and 460 overseas). Trees were donated by 750 Christmas Tree growers, retailers and their customers in 28 states. Donations were received through individual farms, the collective efforts of state and regional Christmas Tree associations, and 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 2011, 31 collection sites participated, gathering 5,856 trees.
- Hundreds of donors and volunteers participate each year to make Trees for Troops happen.

Trees for Troops Weekend 2012

- Members of the National Christmas Tree Association and many state and regional Christmas Tree associations participate in Trees for Troops Weekend. This year's event will be held Nov. 30 to Dec. 2.
- 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.
- Consumers can donate funds or Christmas Trees by visiting one of the 30+ locations participating in Trees for Troops Weekend, 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

There are many ways you can support Trees for Troops:

- 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 (November 30 to December 2), visit one of the participating farms, lots or retail locations to purchase a Christmas Tree or make a monetary donation.
- Donate funds online at 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. Examples may include Microsoft, Bank of America, Home Depot and Covidien. Check with your company's human resources department.
- If you are a federal employee, select #12283 in the Combined Federal Campaign.
- To learn more, visit our website at www.TreesForTroops.org or email info@TreesForTroops.org.

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