

2026 Arizona Arbor Day  
K-12 POSTER CONTEST

# "A Tree Near Me"

We are excited to invite Arizona youth to participate in our 2026 Arbor Day Poster Contest! This year's contest theme "A Tree Near Me" is an invitation to get outside and get creative.

Find a tree near you, draw, sketch, or paint it, and write a word or sentence about what that tree means to you.

*I love this tree at my school  
because...*



*...it brings us together!*

Trees are all around us and play a key role in our communities - everyday! They provide benefits like clean air and water, habitat for wildlife, food, shade, and so much more. They can also contribute to a family tradition like harvesting nuts or fruit for a special occasion, act as a landmark on a familiar route home, and create welcoming spaces for solitude, recreation, and gathering. Trees remind us to go outside, making us healthier and happier.

We invite you to use your creativity to share how trees help you connect with the world and people around you. Use your creativity to celebrate the trees around you!

**Submit posters by March 6th, 2026!**

# Arbor Day 2026 K-12 Poster Contest Rules and Guidelines

**Deadline:** Entries must be postmarked by **Friday, March 6th**. Winners will be notified in April.

**Completed Posters must be mailed to:**

UCF Poster Contest  
Department of Forestry and Fire Management  
1110 West Washington Street, Ste. 500  
Phoenix AZ 85007

In order to be eligible, the following information must be legibly written or typed on the back of the poster: **Participant's name, grade, age, school, school phone number, school address, teacher's name, teacher's email**. If you are doing school at home, provide home email and address. **If posters are missing information, they cannot be judged.**

**Eligible Participants:** Arizona youth, grades K-12. Posters will be judged based on grade level, and prizes will be awarded to the top three posters in each group (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12) and to the teachers of First Place winners in each group.

**Poster Size:** Maximum of 12" x 16"; there is no minimum size. Only one poster per participant may be submitted.

**Total # of Posters:** Teachers - If you have a high number of posters (e.g. more than 50), please select only the top posters that fit the theme of the contest for submission.

- Posters will be judged on originality, design, slogan, artwork, relevance to the theme, and relationship shown between individuals, communities, and trees. Any slogans should be clear, brief, and positive.
- Any media may be used – paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, collage, stickers, paper, digital or other materials that lie flat and can travel through the mail without damage.
- Artwork must be original and wording may be typed or hand-written. **No use of artificial intelligence is allowed.** Organization/agency logos and copyright characters may not be used.
- Posters become the property of the Department of Forestry and Fire Management and will not be returned. Posters may be used for publicity purposes.
- Parents and teachers are encouraged to do their own research on the history of Arbor Day and lifecycle of trees to share their findings with the youth participating in the poster contest.
- Winners from previous Arbor Day Poster Contests are not eligible to win first place more than once, but are encouraged to participate.



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