

Corri A. Feige  
Commissioner



Department of  
Natural Resources

www.DNR.Alaska.Gov

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: August 21, 2020

## Grants to plant trees still available for Alaska schools

**(Anchorage, AK)** – The Alaska Division of Forestry still has funding available for schools to plant trees to honor the one-hundredth anniversary of the National Association of State Foresters (NASF).

Schools may apply for grants of up to \$400 to buy and ship trees for planting on school grounds. The grant program, funded by the U.S. Forest Service, celebrates NASF's partnership with forestry divisions in Alaska and around the country, said Jim Renkert, community forestry program manager for the Alaska Division of Forestry.

"The COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on schools disrupted the original plan to have schools plant trees on Arbor Day 2020," Renkert said. "But we would still like to get these grants awarded so schools can plant trees during the 2020-21 school year. So, we encourage schools to apply for a grant, so they can plant a tree to beautify their campus and foster student interest in trees and nature."

The national grant campaign is part of NASF's "Centennial Challenge" to honor the work of the association in providing a unified voice for state and private forestry in the United States since 1920, and to highlight the social, environmental, and economic contributions state forestry agencies have made nationwide for more than a century.

The state forestry division is sponsoring the NASF grant program in hopes of helping 100 Alaska schools plant at least one tree each on their grounds, Renkert said.

For applications and instructions on how to apply for NASF Centennial School Tree Challenge grants, go to the Division of Forestry's Community Forestry Program website at <http://forestry.alaska.gov/community/grants>. Schools are encouraged to involve students in the grant application and planning process.

**CONTACT:** Jim Renkert, (907) 269-8465, [jim.renkert@alaska.gov](mailto:jim.renkert@alaska.gov) or Josh Hightower, (907) 269-8466, [josh.hightower@alaska.gov](mailto:josh.hightower@alaska.gov)

###