

2025 N.C. Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program
Urban and Community Forestry Foundations
N.C Arbor Day 2026 Celebration Assistance Application



Assistance is being offered to as many as three municipalities or tribal governments, one in each NCFS region (Coastal, Piedmont, Mountain), to plan and hold a 2026 N.C. Arbor Day celebration on North Carolina Arbor Day, which is March 20, 2026.

- Eligible Organizations
 - Municipalities and tribal governments
- Application Period
 - Opens July 1, 2025, and closes Aug. 31, 2025, at 5 p.m. EST.
- Assistance and Responsibilities
 - NCFS U&CF will provide the following services and supplies:
 - Event planning support
 - Event planning resources and guidance
 - Pre-event ceremonial tree planting site assessment and species selection
 - Professional planting and post-planting maintenance plan
 - Celebration
 - Framed Arbor Day proclamation signed by a community leader and the State Forester.
 - NCFS staff member to provide a brief Arbor Day celebration speech and present the proclamation.
 - 2-2½-inch caliper ceremonial tree for planting at the event.
 - Post-care supplies: tree watering bag and mulch.
 - Up to 200 tree saplings for giveaway to event participants/attendees.
 - Species selection based on availability and consultation with U&CF staff.
 - Tree sapling bags and planting instruction cards.
 - Outreach materials
 - 1-2-page infographic-style event accomplishment report.
 - Urban and Community Forestry Review
 - U&CF staff will complete a general program review and recommendation of next steps for the community to move up the sustainable U&CF management hierarchy.
 - Municipality will provide:
 - Event location – municipal property or public school
 - Event planning and logistics
 - Event amenities – restroom facilities, refreshments, supplies not listed above
 - Event marketing



➤ Award

- One municipality from each NCFS region will be selected for a total of three awards.
- Awardees will be notified by Oct. 1, 2025.
- Award criteria
 - The review and award criteria noted on our Financial Assistance webpage applies with conditional edits for this RFA, shown in sub-bullets under the standard criteria below.
 - Technical merits of the application and project.
 - Technical merits of the application will be defined by the Need Statement, and Event Narrative for this RFA. Share why it is important to your community and your event plans.
 - Completion of the project achieves the municipality's next standard of the NCFS U&CF Management Classification.
 - Preference will be given to municipalities with a No Management/Unknown or Formative Classification for this RFA.
 - Project builds upon a previously accomplished U&CF project.
 - The applicant is a current Tree City USA, Tree Campus Higher Education or Tree Campus K-12.
 - Only emerging Tree City USA communities (five years of recognition or less) will be considered for this RFA.
 - Project start date – Practice or activity can begin soon after award.
 - Not applicable.
 - Project serves a disadvantaged community.
 - The applicant municipality is in a Tier 1 county.

➤ Application

- The application is electronic, and a copy of the application can be found on the U&CF Resources and Specifications webpage in the Financial Assistance section.
- Review the application before submitting your application. The application has all the questions you will be required to answer and the information you will need to provide.

[Click Here to Submit an Application](#)