



# Tree City USA

## CAL FIRE Tree City USA

To qualify for Tree City USA, a town or city must meet four standards established by The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. These standards were established to ensure that every qualifying community would have a viable tree management plan and program. It is important to note that they were also designed so that no community would be excluded because of size.

### 1) A Tree Board or Department

Someone must be legally responsible for the care and management of the community's trees. This may be a professional forester or arborist, an entire forestry department, or a volunteer tree board. A tree board, or commission, is a group of concerned volunteer citizens charged by ordinance with developing and administering a comprehensive tree management program. Balanced, broad-based community involvement is encouraged. Often, both a professional staff and advisory tree board are present, which is a good goal for most communities.

### 2) A Tree Care Ordinance

The tree ordinance must designate the establishment of a tree board or forestry department and give this body the responsibility for writing and implementing an annual community forestry work plan. Beyond that, the ordinance should be flexible enough to fit the needs and circumstances of the particular community. A tree ordinance provides an opportunity to set good policy and back it with the force of law when necessary. Ideally, it will provide clear guidance for planting, maintaining and removing trees from streets, parks and other public places. You can find a sample tree care ordinance at the International Society of Arboriculture.

### 3) A Community Forestry Program With Annual Budget of at Least \$2 Per Capita

Evidence is required that the community has established a community forestry program that is supported by an annual budget of at least \$2 per capita. Ideally, this standard will be met by focusing funding on an annual work plan developed after an inventory is completed and a report is approved by the city council. Such a plan will address species diversity, planting needs, hazardous trees, insect and disease problems and a pattern of regular care such as pruning and watering.

### 4) An Arbor Day Observance and Proclamation

This is the least challenging and probably the most enjoyable standard to accomplish. An Arbor Day celebration can be simple and brief or an all-day or all-week observation. It can be a simple tree planting event or an award ceremony that honors leading tree planters. The benefits of Arbor Day go far beyond the shade and beauty of new trees for the next generation. Arbor Day is a golden opportunity for publicity and to educate homeowners about proper tree care. Fire prevention messages can be worked into the event, as can conservation education about soil erosion or the need to protect wildlife habitat.





# Tree Line USA

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The Tree Line USA Award (TLUSA) is a program that is run by the NADF on a nationwide basis. The U&CF Program delivers Tree Line USA in California. There are 3 requirements for a Utility Company to meet to get TLUSA status. They are:

### 1. Quality Tree Care

- A. Work practices are formally adopted for pruning similar to methods described in “Pruning Trees Near Electric Utility Lines: A Field Pocket Guide For Qualified Line Clearance Tree Workers” by Dr. Alex L. Shigo, and in compliance with ANSI A300. These practices avoid topping, tipping, removing branch collars and leaving long stubs. Each worker who performs line clearance, including contractor workers, has read and understands the field guide (or an equivalent one approved by your State Forester and the Foundation), follows its recommendations, and has a copy at every work site for quick reference.
- B. Work practices are recommended for trenching and tunneling near trees similar to methods described in “Trenching and Tunneling Near Trees: A Field Pocket Guide for Qualified Workers” by Dr. James R. Fazio. These practices reduce the destruction of roots and injury to trees. The utility has provided educational information to its underground workers on proper trenching and tunneling.

### 2. Annual Worker Training

- A. Annual documented training on following the work practices in Requirement 1A is carried out for all employees, contract workers and supervisors who do pruning work.
- B. An arborist, forester or other trained utility employee is designated by the utility to ensure that the training takes place and that the work practices are followed.

### 3. Tree Planting and Public Education

- A. An ongoing community tree-planting program is sponsored by the utility. Utility employees may plant the trees, or the utility may fund tree planting by municipalities, volunteer groups or homeowners. It is suggested the utility work toward an annual expenditure of at least 10 cents per customer.
- B. One or more mailings that include educational information about trees are made annually to all homeowner customers. Examples include:
  - Appropriate tree species for planting near utility lines.
  - How to create energy-efficient landscapes to reduce cooling and heating loads.
  - Tips on how to prune trees safely.
  - Annual Arbor Day events are sponsored by or participated in the utility.





# Tree Campuses USA

## CAL FIRE Tree Campus USA

Your college campus can receive annual Tree Campus USA recognition by meeting five standards. Campuses meeting these standards will receive recognition materials to showcase their dedication to the campus environment.

### 1) A Campus Tree Advisory Committee

A Campus Tree Advisory Committee comprised of members representing the diverse audience of those with a stake in campus trees is established and meets regularly. This committee must include a representative from each of the following audience: Student (undergraduate or graduate), Faculty, Facility Management, Community (for example: city forester, municipal arborist, community tree board member). Each individual campus may also have other interested parties involved.

### 2) A Campus Tree Care Plan

A Campus Tree Care Plan should be flexible enough to fit the needs and circumstances of the particular campus. The Tree Care Plan should be goal oriented and provide the opportunity to set good policy and clear guidance for planting, maintaining, and removing trees. A Campus Tree Care Plan must include:

1. Clearly stated purpose.
2. Responsible authority/department—who enforces the Campus Tree Care Plan.
3. Establishment of a Campus Tree Advisory Committee, terms of the representatives, and role committee plays.
4. Campus tree care policies for planting, landscaping, maintenance and removal including establishing and updating a list of recommended and prohibited species; managing for catastrophic events.
5. Protection and Preservation policies and procedures—include process for implementing tree protection plan including step-by-step process that every project must follow including construction and trenching.
6. Goals and Targets—develop at least one goal and target for your Campus Tree Plan. These could include (but are not limited to) tree canopy target, development of a link between the Campus Tree Plan and other green initiatives on campus or in the community; completion of a campus-wide tree inventory, etc. Include how the goal will be measured.
7. Tree damage assessment—enforcement, penalties, and appeals.
8. Prohibited practices.
9. Definitions of terminology related to campus trees.
10. Communication strategy—how the campus tree care plan will be communicated to the college community and contractors to heighten awareness about policies and procedures as well as the goals of the institution.



# Tree Campuses USA

### 3) A Campus Tree Program with Dedicated Annual Expenditures

A college campus, to be designated a Tree Campus USA, must allocate finances for its annual campus tree program. Evidence should be shown that an annual work plan has been established and expenditures dedicated towards that work plan. It is suggested, but not mandatory, that campuses work towards an annual expenditure of \$3 per full-time enrolled student. Expenditures could include, but are not limited to:

- cost of trees purchased, labor, equipment and supplies for tree planting
- maintenance and removal costs
- value of volunteer labor (# of hours × \$18)
- other contributions from student or civic organizations
- staff time dedicated to campus forest planning
- tree care contractors
- public education related to the campus forest
- professional training
- campus tree inventory
- potentially other costs

### 4) An Arbor Day Observance

An Arbor Day observance provides a golden opportunity to educate the campus community to the benefits of the trees on their campus property and in the community. The Arbor Day observance can be on the campus or held in conjunction with the community where the campus is located. Your event may be held at an appropriate time for your campus. Evidence that records the date the observance was held with attachment that includes program of activities, news coverage, and/or pictures.

### 5) A Service Learning Project

The Service Learning Project should be an outreach of the spirit of the Tree Campus USA initiative. This project should provide an opportunity to engage the student population with projects related to trees and can be part of a campus or community initiative. The project must be done within the course of the year application is submitted. Project ideas include, but are not limited to: Volunteer tree planting or tree maintenance, tree inventory (campus or community), establishment of campus arboreta, student-led effort to have community designated a Tree City USA, coordinate internships with the city urban forestry or parks department, assist Project Learning Tree or other programs centered around trees that educate teachers.

