



## Extension Activities



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- Adopt a tree—give your tree a name, list the date it was planted, what type of tree it is, and make a tag to tie onto a low tree branch that tells who adopted this tree. Laminate the tag to make it last longer outdoors. Be sure to tie it loosely or else the branch might become “girdled,” which can invite pests and affect growth. Include check boxes that indicate when care was given – use a permanent marker to keep track every time you visit your tree.
- Predict tree growth, i.e. if trees grow 6 inches per year, how tall will your tree be in 5 years? Make a chart of your predictions and fill in as you check your tree’s progress.
- Make a photo journal of one or more of the trees that you planted. You can take a “before” photo, planting day shots, and an “after” photo. Add new photos of you standing next to your tree every year and watch it grow.



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- Press a leaf from your tree and add to your journal. Press leaves from the spring, summer, and fall to see the difference in color, structure, and texture. Add fruit, seeds, or flowers if your tree produces any.
  - Keep a log about your tree, including species, date of planting, description of soil, size of tree, etc. In addition to regular care for your tree, set specific dates to visit and monitor your tree. Use a graph or chart to make keeping track easy and systematic. Examples of things to monitor:
    - ▶ Are there spots or discoloration on the leaves of your tree?
    - ▶ Are there insects on your tree?
    - ▶ Has any damage to the trunk, bark, or branches occurred to your tree?
- Create a wildlife habitat as a companion project. Design, plan and install a wildlife garden near

your tree planting to support other wildlife species. Or you can plan and install a wildlife garden at your meeting place, school or other community site. Download the how to guide for creating a wildlife habitat garden and outdoor learning lab at [www.nwf.org/schoolyardhabitat](http://www.nwf.org/schoolyardhabitat).



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### References

- USDA Forest Service. 2007. Northeast Community Tree Guide: Benefits, Costs, and Strategic Planting. Pacific Southwest Research Station. PSW-GTR-202.
- USDA Forest Service. 2004. Urban and Community Forestry Appreciation Tool Kit. Mid-Atlantic Center for Urban and Community Forestry. NA-IN-02-04.

