

News Release

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U.S. CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENT DEADLINE OCT. 5 **DROP OFF SITES ARE AVAILABLE STATEWIDE**

Springerville, AZ (October 1, 2009) – Deadline for submitting ornaments for the 2009 US Capitol Christmas Tree from Arizona is Monday, October 5. Over 35 locations are now available for dropping off ornaments throughout the State.

Arizona has been chosen to provide this year's U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, also known as The People's Tree and the Aldo Leopold Centennial Tree. A stunning 85-foot Blue spruce has been selected from the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests in the White Mountains of eastern Arizona.

Arizona students in grades K through 12 are making 5,000 ornaments for the Christmas tree which is taller than a 7-story building. The tree will be decorated with handcrafted ornaments depicting "Arizona's Gifts" which is the theme of the project. An additional 1,000 handmade ornaments for 80 companion trees are also needed.

The deadline for submitting ornaments is October 5. Teachers and group leaders from schools and youth organizations are encouraged to participate. Outdoor and indoor ornament guidelines can be found at www.CapitolChristmasTree2009.org. All children who submit an ornament for the 85-foot tree will also be eligible to win a trip to Washington, D.C., along with parents and teacher or group leader, to help the Speaker of the House light the Capitol Christmas Tree.

Collection sites are available for dropping off ornaments throughout the state and are available online at www.CapitolChristmasTree2009.org. Drop off sites are located at select Forest Service offices, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Arizona County Cooperative Extension offices.