

News Release

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CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE ORNAMENT DROP OFF SITES ADDED

National Forest Service Offices and Cooperative Extension County Offices Get Involved

Springerville, AZ (September 22, 2009) – The Grand Canyon State and students throughout Arizona will get to shine in front of the whole nation this year. Arizona has been chosen to bestow this year’s Capitol Christmas Tree, also known as The People’s 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 iconic symbol will be decorated with handcrafted ornaments depicting “Arizona’s Gifts” which is the theme of the project. The ornaments need to be between 9 and 13 inches tall and be able to withstand three weeks of harsh Washington, D.C. weather. An additional 1,000 handmade ornaments for 80 companion trees are also needed. The indoor trees will be displayed in federal offices and buildings throughout the Capitol Complex.

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 students 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, to help the Speaker of the House light the Capitol Christmas Tree.

Collection sites have been added to the list of offices accepting ornaments throughout the state and are available online at www.CapitolChristmasTree2009.org. Drop off sites are at certain locations such as Forest Service offices, Natural Resources Conservation Service and Arizona County Cooperative Extension offices throughout the state.