

Overview of Forestry Day in Nelson and area – National Forestry Week 2017

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- In June, letter invites go out to our local schools for their grade 5 classes to participate in a Forestry Fun Day at our nearby provincial park. Follow up letter/email in late August or early September to ask for confirmed numbers.
- Government and industry staff develop (or have already developed) interactive stations on the following topics (topics vary depending on volunteers, but 4 stations (most are split stations so 8 sub-stations):
 - Logging, Wood Products & Safety
 - Fire and Aging & Art
 - Fish & Fur
 - Scavenger Hunt (plant/tree identification)
- Forest Professionals do a pre-day visit to the school classes (20-40 minutes depending on the class schedules and time available) to give them a heads up on what to expect (it's a go rain or shine, bring lunch and water, appropriate clothing and footwear (lots of running)), hand out seedlings donated by our local nursery and a talk about caring for and growing of trees, general information on forestry)
- On the day, groups (pre-split to balance numbers) of 15-25 students with a teacher/helper and a staff lead spend 20-25 minutes at each sub-stations (i.e. 20 minutes at Wildfire's fire demo and pump relays and then a further 20 minutes at Aging and Art where kids learn about tree cookies and growth rings)

Activities at the station:

Logging, Wood Products & Safety (often done by a local company)

- Discussions and samples of wood products that come from our trees and where in the world these products end up (i.e. houses in Japan, our local lumber yards)
- Discussion and hands on display of logging gear (chokers, caulk boots)
- Running relay with safety (PPE) equipment and/or choker relay

Fire and Aging & Art

- Wildfire staff
 - Talk about fire protection
 - Demo and get the students to use back pack pumps and fire tools to put out campfire-sized fires.
 - Have a running relay on using fire pump and filling up the back pack tanks
- Forestry staff
 - Talk about tree growth through the use of tree cookies and live trees
 - Students get a tree cookie and get to decorate it with felt pens to take home

Fish & Fur

- Viewing of a trout spawning channel and discussion about the fish cycle. Include discussion on forestry management of riparian areas.
- Local environment/conservation staff bring in furs and/or skulls and talk about animals and Bear Aware program

Scavenger Hunt

- Moving discussions on plant and tree identification, including a “bingo-like” card for identifying species (sometimes there are prizes for finished cards).

Forest Health (this station not set up in 2017 due to available volunteers and materials)

- Forest Entomologist or other local bug expert has a model of a giant bark beetle and talks about its life cycle.
- Introduce funnel traps and make a relay game of throwing popcorn into the funnels
- Have recent rounds of pine and with the use of screw drivers, get the students to “dig” out live beetles (gloves and supervision is needed on this one)

