

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY TOUR

June 26-29, 2012. Based out of Post Falls, Idaho.

Frequently Asked Questions

What do the educators experience?

Through the Sustainable Forestry Tour educators immerse themselves in the social, economic and ecological aspects of sustainable forestry. Once the educator arrives at the tour, s/he is treated as a VIP! They are immersed in sustainable forestry issues with valuable information and concepts to bring into their classrooms. Our goal during the 3-day program is to have educators visit private, state and federal forests; tour wood and paper mills and a seedling nursery; see an active timber harvesting operation and walk in managed forest stands of differing ages. Throughout the tour, they learn directly from the natural resource professionals who care for our forests, and those who provide products we all use every day. Educators leave with abundant information and resources to explore sustainable forestry and related careers with their students.

What grade(s) and subjects(s) should the educator teach?

Teachers and school counselors of 3rd through 12th grades are invited to apply. We especially encourage those with specialties in science, natural resources, vocational or agriculture education, and career counselors to apply. The most important goal in selecting a teacher or counselor is their ability to share what they learn on this tour with their students and peers.

How are educators selected?

The Idaho Forest Products Commission recruits educators from throughout the region. Educators may also be recruited by tour sponsors. Educators may apply for a spot on the tour online at www.idahoforests.org/tour.htm, or request an application from IFPC. We aim to meet a variety of needs in selecting each year's tour group—representing different geographic areas (states, parts of Idaho, urban/suburban/rural), different grade levels and subject areas, etc. Educators selected to attend the tour will be matched with sponsors. We have a limit of 42 participants each year. While we can't guarantee everyone will be selected, we'll give careful consideration to each applicant.

Who pays for the educator's hotel room and food during the tour?

All tour expenses (lodging, meals, travel, materials) are covered by generous sponsors including a variety of forest product businesses, such as sawmills, logging companies, building material suppliers, trade groups and other organizations and agencies.

When and where do educators need to arrive?

Educators sign in between 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 26, 2012. The program officially kicks off at 2:30 p.m., 6/26/12, and ends at 10 a.m. on Friday, 6/29/12. The Sustainable Forestry Tour operates out of, and participants lodge at, Red Lion Templin's Hotel on the River in Post Falls, Idaho.

Do educators share a hotel room?

We assign roommates to encourage interaction between tour participants and help keep costs down. Special arrangements may be made upon request at participants' expense. The hotel has a conference room where educators meet for some programs each day. Spouses and family members are not permitted on the tour.

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How do the educators get from place to place?

A shuttle is provided between the hotel and Spokane Airport. During the tour, an air-conditioned bus picks up the educators at the hotel and takes them to each site on the tour. Speakers are often featured during the drive. Beverages, snacks and sanitary facilities are available.

How much hiking/walking is required?

Participants are walking through much of each day's tours. They should be able to walk one mile at a brisk pace and be able to tolerate high temperatures, as we may be out in heat and sun for long periods, and touring some mills that can be quite hot. Participants should also be able to ride on a bus for occasional long stretches.

What do educators need to bring with them?

Bring casual clothing, as we'll be in the woods or touring factories and mills during most of the tour.

- Comfortable walking shoes or boots. Closed-toe shoes are required on all mill tours.
- Long pants are required on some mill tours and recommended for forest excursions.
- A light jacket is handy for evenings and the air-conditioned bus.
- Sunglasses, hat, rain gear (just in case)
- Camera
- Medications (motion sickness, insect stings, allergies, etc.)
- Bug repellent, sunscreen, safety equipment and first aid kit are provided.

Are graduate credits available?

Two graduate credits (for recertification) are available from University of Idaho at the educator's own cost. (2011 prices: Idaho educators: \$101/credit. Outside Idaho educators: \$307/credit.) Washington NEWSD 101: 30 Clock Hours are available for a total cost of \$60. Credit registration takes place on Tuesday. For those not desiring credits or clock hours who need proof of attendance, we can provide a letter for your school district.

What is the role of sponsors and how are educators and sponsors matched?

Sponsors are forest products businesses, individuals and agencies in Idaho and throughout the nation. Sponsors provide registration and transportation costs for tour participants. Sponsors often develop a business/education partnership and are a source of information to their educator after the tour is completed. We will match each educator with a sponsor. Some sponsors will recruit educators directly.

How much does it cost to sponsor an educator?

The sponsorship fee is \$300 per educator (covers Tuesday afternoon through Friday morning) plus the educator's travel expenses (specific arrangements are up to the sponsor and educator). Keep in mind that, depending on their home location, the educator may also need lodging Monday and/or Friday evening. The total cost of sponsoring an educator is typically \$400 to \$900.

What if I have other questions?

Visit our website at www.idahoforests.org/tour.htm or contact us at 208-334-4061 (toll free at 800-ID-WOODS) or plt@idahoforests.org. You may see photos from the 2011 tour on the Sustainable Forestry Tour Facebook page.



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