

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY TOUR for Teachers & Counselors
June 26-30, 2017. Based out of Post Falls, Idaho.
Frequently Asked Questions

What do the participants experience?

Through the Sustainable Forestry Tour teachers and school counselors immerse themselves in the social, economic and ecological aspects of sustainable forestry. Once the participant arrives at the tour, s/he is treated as a VIP! They explore sustainable forestry issues with valuable information, concepts and activities to bring back to school. Our goal is to have participants visit private, state and federal forests; tour wood and paper mills and a seedling nursery; see an active timber harvesting operation; walk in managed forest stands of differing ages; and experience proven classroom activities to address tour topics with their students. They will learn directly from the natural resource professionals who care for our forests, and those who provide products we all use every day. Participants leave with abundant information and resources to explore sustainable forestry and related careers with their students.

What grade(s) and subjects(s) should the participant teach or counsel?

Teachers and school counselors of 3rd through 12th grades are invited to apply. We seek a mix of sciences, math, language arts, social studies, agriculture, natural resources, STEM, engineering, mechanics and careers. We give special consideration to those from population centers. 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 for years to come.

How are participants selected?

The Idaho Forest Products Commission recruits participants from throughout the region. Participants may also be recruited by tour sponsors. Participants may apply for a spot on the tour online at www.idahoforests.org/tour.htm, or request an application from IFPC. We aim to have the group represent different geographic areas (parts of Idaho, eastern Washington, urban/suburban/rural), as well as a mix of grade levels and subject areas. Participants selected to attend the tour will be matched with sponsors. We have a limit of 43 participants each year. While we not everyone can be selected, we'll give careful consideration to every applicant. Apply by March 31. Applicants are accepted on a rolling basis, with all applicants notified of their status by April 30.

Who pays for participant transportation, food and lodging?

All tour expenses (lodging, meals, travel to/from and during tour, 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 individuals, organizations and agencies.

Where and when do participants need to arrive?

The Sustainable Forestry Tour operates out of, and participants lodge at, *Red Lion Templin's Hotel on the River* in Post Falls, Idaho. The program runs from 1 pm on Monday, 6/26, to 11 am on Friday, 6/30.

Do participants share a hotel room?

We assign roommates to encourage interaction between tour participants and help keep costs down. Single room request upgrades may be made at participants' expense of \$200 (4 nights at \$50/night). Spouses and family members are not permitted on the tour.

How do the participants get from place to place?

Participants drive to Post Falls or fly to Spokane Airport. A shuttle is provided between the airport and hotel. During the tour, an air-conditioned bus picks up the participants at the hotel and takes them to each site on the tour. Speakers are often featured during the drive. Beverages, snacks and restroom facilities are available.

How much hiking/walking is required?

Participants will be walking each day. They need to be able to walk one mile at a brisk pace and be able to tolerate cold and hot temperatures, both outdoors and in the mills. Participants need to be able to ride on a bus for occasional long stretches (60-90 min).

What should participants bring with them?

We'll be in the woods or touring factories and mills during most of the tour. Be aware that June weather in northern Idaho is predictably unpredictable! It may be hot, cold, dry, wet or all of the above during the tour. Safety equipment, bug repellent, sunscreen and a first aid kit are provided, but plan to bring:

- Casual outdoor clothing, including a jacket, hat, rain gear and sunglasses.
- Closed-toe sturdy shoes or boots are required in mills and in the forest.
- Long pants or jeans are required on some mill tours and recommended in the forest.
- Medications (for motion sickness, insect stings, allergies, etc.)
- Camera and any other devices to document your experience. A signal is often available.

Are credits available?

Optional professional development credits (for recertification) are available from a choice of Univ. of Idaho (1, 2 or 3 at a cost of \$60/credit) or Northwest Nazarene Univ. (3 credits at a total cost of \$180) at the participant's own cost. We will provide links for online registration prior to the tour. Washington NEWESD 101: 39.5 Clock Hours are available for a total of \$79. For those needing proof of attendance, we will provide a letter and/or certificate.

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

Sponsors are forest product businesses, individuals, organizations and state and federal agencies.

Participant sponsors cover a sponsorship fee for tour participants. **Other sponsors** provide funding toward general tour costs. Sponsors often develop a relationship with participants and are a terrific source of information after the tour. Some sponsors recruit participants directly.

What if I have other questions?

Visit our website at www.idahoforests.org/tour.htm or contact us at plt@idahoforests.org or 208-334-4061. See photos from past tours on the Sustainable Forestry Tour Facebook page.



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