



Media Advisory

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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City of Liberty and Lewis & Clark 5th Graders to Celebrate Missouri's Arbor Day

LIBERTY, Mo. – The City of Liberty and Lewis & Clark Elementary School will celebrate Missouri's Arbor Day by planting five trees on the school's campus.

When: 10 a.m., April 5.

Where: Lewis & Clark Elementary School at 1407 Nashua Road

Who: 5th grade classes and staff from Lewis & Clark Elementary School, representatives from Liberty Tree Board and Mayor Lyndell Brenton

What: Lewis & Clark 5th graders will mulch five trees planted earlier this week by Liberty Parks & Rec staff.

Background: Earlier this year, the Heartland Tree Alliance brought its "Trees are Terrific" program to Lewis & Clark's five 5th grade classes. The program teaches students about the importance of trees and the role they play in a healthy community. As part of the program, the students helped to select the five trees – two swamp white oaks, two white oaks and one red maple – that will be planted for the event.

The number of trees to be planted not only represents each of the fifth grade classes but also commemorates the school's 50th anniversary.

During the event Mayor Brenton will read an Arbor Day proclamation. Participants will also celebrate Liberty's 15th year as a TreeCity USA and a Growth Award received from the Arbor Day Foundation for innovative projects and increased commitment to urban forestry. Each student also

(more)

will receive a native Swamp White Oak Tree Seedling to plant at home for Arbor Day. These are grown at the George O. White State Forest Nursery near Licking, Missouri, which is operated by the Missouri Department of Conservation.

The annual Arbor Day celebrations are just one reason the City of Liberty has been designated a Tree City USA for the 15th straight year. A community improvement project sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Conference of Mayors and the National League of Cities, the Tree City USA program provides direction, technical assistance, public attention and national recognition for urban and community forestry programs in thousands of towns and cities across the country.

A significant benefit of receiving the Tree City USA designation is that it demonstrates the community's commitment to the management of its trees by promoting the planting, maintenance, restoration and survival of desirable trees, shrubs and other plants within the City. This designation also enables the City to receive additional grant funding for tree-related expenses through matching grant programs.

Some tree-related resources

Liberty Community Forestry: www.libertymissouri.gov/CommunityForestry

Liberty Tree Board: www.libertymissouri.gov/TreeBoard

Arbor Day Foundation: www.arborday.org/index.cfm

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