



**Christmas SPIRIT Foundation**  
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## **Trees for Troops Fact Sheet**

### ***About Trees for Troops***

Christmas Tree growers have been providing free trees for military families for many years. In 2005, FedEx contacted the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation, the 501(c)(3) charitable branch of the National Christmas Tree Association and wanted to be involved in the foundation's mission. Together the two organizations expanded the idea of providing Christmas Trees to military families, and Trees for Troops was born.

277,001 fresh, farm-grown Christmas Trees have been donated to troops and military families in the United States and overseas through Trees for Troops, since the program started in 2005. Thousands of trees are donated by American farm families and the public, and FedEx Freight delivers these trees to a range of 60 to 80 military bases, across all branches of service in the U.S. and overseas. FedEx has logged more than a million miles for the Trees for Troops program.

### ***By the Numbers***

Final numbers for 2021: 14,736 total trees, picked up from 56 locations and delivered to 77 different bases. For 2022, we are estimating 15,300 total trees picked up from 54 locations and given to 84 total bases. Trees are donated by individual farms and lots, the collective efforts of state and regional Christmas Tree associations, local sponsoring groups, and the customers of participating locations. Hundreds of donors and volunteers participate each year to make Trees for Troops happen.

### ***Honors and Recognitions***

The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation was awarded the Best in America Seal of Excellence. The Independent Charities Seal of Excellence is awarded to charities that have been able to certify, document, and demonstrate on an annual basis that they meet the highest standards of public accountability, program effectiveness, and cost effectiveness. It is estimated that fewer than 5 percent meet or exceed these standards, and, of those, fewer than 4 percent have been awarded this seal.

In 2017, Trees for Troops, was honored as a recipient of the 2017 Spirit of Hope Award in a ceremony at the Pentagon. The Spirit of Hope Award, established in 1997, is named for comedian and actor Bob Hope and recognizes current and former military members, civilians and organizations that epitomize his values of patriotism, loyalty, freedom, and dedication.

In 2012, Trees for Troops was honored at the White House as a top 20 national finalist in the Joining Forces Community Challenge, an initiative started by First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden to recognize organizations that provide exemplary service and support to military families.

## ***Trees for Troops “Official Locations”***

Individuals and organizations are invited to participate and show their own appreciation to these families by visiting [www.treesfortroops.org](http://www.treesfortroops.org) to view a list of participating tree farms and retail lots designated as “Official Locations” where the public can buy and donate a tree to be added to the program and delivered to a base. Many of these Official Locations offer online tree purchase options for shopper convenience. Consumers can donate funds or Christmas trees by visiting one of these locations in person or their online store and are encouraged to write personal messages on the tree tags that accompany donated trees. There are also opportunities to donate remotely for those not located near one of the official locations.

Many of the other 50 to 60 tree farms and retail lots which serve as a location for tree pick up also offer opportunities for customer and local area support and tree donations culminating in what is designated as Trees for Troops Weekend, December 2-4. Farms and retail lots have found many creative and customized ways to be a part of the program and support it with any combination of trees, donations, volunteers, awareness, etc.

## ***How You Can Get Involved***

- Follow Trees for Troops on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter and share our posts with your social networks.
- Donate funds online at <https://www.christmasspiritfoundation.org/Donate>. The Christmas SPIRIT Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and donations are tax deductible.
- Double your donation: some employers will match your charitable donations. Check with your company’s human resources department to see if your employer offers a charitable matching program.
- When you purchase your family’s tree, ask your Christmas Tree retailer if they are involved in Trees for Troops (look for “We Support Trees for Troops” signs). Many Christmas Tree retailers accept donations or provide other opportunities to support the program.
- If you would like to add a tree to the program, visit one of the “Official Locations”.

To learn more, visit our website at <https://christmasspiritfoundation.org/trees-for-troops> or email [info@TreesForTroops.org](mailto:info@TreesForTroops.org). We need your support of Trees for Troops year-round! Our mission is to provide Christmas SPIRIT to kids, families and the environment, and the Trees for Troops program does that. To get a sense of how this program has a positive impact, browse through some of the photos and stories we receive from families and soldiers who get a tree.

## **Connect with Trees for Troops**

