



Plant a Peace Tree DIY Project

Civic Circle Area: Volunteer

The impact of COVID-19 continues to change our daily lives and routines, but volunteering and civic engagement are just as important as ever. This project can be modified to adhere to social distancing guidelines set by local and national authorities, to do virtually or to do at home and deliver via mail or drop off.

Earth Day, celebrated each year on April 22, is about more than the environment: it's about peace. Destruction of the environment is directly linked to poverty, human rights violations and war. You can get involved in the celebration of Earth Day by planting a tree in honor of peace and to help the environment.

Why Is It Important?

In its average 50-year lifetime, one tree can clean up \$62,000 worth of air pollution. Trees also lower energy costs.

What You Need:

- A location to plant your tree.
- A tree you would like to plant.
- Gloves, shovels and a water source to be used when planting.

Steps:

1. Decide where you would like to plant the tree. Check with your neighborhood, a park, a low-income housing development, a community center or a local shelter to see if they would like a tree planted.
2. Consider dedicating the tree to someone in your community.
3. Research and choose a tree that will thrive in your area.
4. Before you dig, contact the telephone, gas electric, cable and sewer companies. Ask them to check the area where you want to plant so you don't hit any cables or pipes.
5. Make arrangements for the tree to be taken care of after you have planted it.

Reflection Questions:

- How did it feel to plant a tree on a day where hundreds of others are doing the same?
- What are the benefits that this tree will provide for the area where it was planted?
- Are there other areas in your community that could benefit from having a tree planted?