

Forests Forever, Inc.

Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm

Where learning and growing go hand in hand

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For Immediate Release

Youth Head into the Woods 2nd Saturdays--service and learning go hand in hand

OREGON CITY, Ore., Youth organizations in the greater Portland area that are interested in service and field trip activities have been coming to Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm for fifteen years! Just 10 miles south of Oregon City, Hopkins tree farm, is a 140-acre demonstration forest owned and operated by Forests Forever, Inc. "We rely on the community to help us take care of and enjoy this wonderful forest," says tree farm outreach coordinator, Tim Lichen. "In 2005 we are going to try something a little different by combining our volunteer workdays and scheduled tours on the second Saturday of the month." All youth organizations are invited to visit Hopkins tree farm for a walk of self-discovery, to enjoy a guided tour, or participate in a service project.

This privately owned forest is open to the public daily. Guests get around the woodland by walking on over 3 miles of trails and roads that crisscross the property, through a variety of different-aged stands, management demonstrations and wildlife habitats. A trail guide and map is available to help you navigate the woodland, where you may learn more details about the woodland from the Watershed Interpretive Trail, and 13 new exhibits installed at several locations in the forest. Facilities include 2 vault-style restrooms, drinking water, a picnic shelter, amphitheater with campfire ring, classroom and shop. Lichen says, "We do not charge for our programs or use of the property, we want people to help manage our forest and share it with others. It's the kind of place where everyone can learn: we swap our knowledge, skills and access for your volunteer service."

Community workdays and property tours are the second Saturday of each month, and arrangements can always be made for tours and service on other days. Service projects for 2005 include tree planting, forest growth measurements, a variety of wildlife projects, and trail work. Tree farm staff would also like to establish an orienteering course, and plant geo-caches in the Hopkins woodland. Another idea for youth service is hosting lunch and refreshment stations for events and volunteer workdays. Workday volunteers are given lunch and beverages for their help. All projects are expertly supervised; no special tools or materials are required. Volunteers usually bring their own work clothes and boots—and can borrow gloves and raingear at the farm.

To learn more about opportunities for youth at Hopkins Memorial Tree Farm, contact Tim Lichen at 503-632-2150 or tim.lichen@oregonstate.edu. More information about Forests Forever is available on their web page: www.forestsforever-or.org.

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