



**2019 U.S. CAPITOL
CHRISTMAS TREE**
CARSON NATIONAL FOREST
NEW MEXICO



NEW MEXICO *True*

newmexico.org

Calling all New Mexico fourth graders! Do you love New Mexico's forests and public lands? Tell us why and you could win a trip to Washington D.C. to light the 2019 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, coming from New Mexico's own Carson National Forest!

Every year, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service selects one lucky national forest to provide the best possible Christmas tree to place on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol building. The tradition of the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, or the "People's Tree," began in 1964. Since then, the tree has been chosen from New Mexico twice.

This year, the tree will be coming from the Red River area in the Questa Ranger District of Carson National Forest in northern New Mexico, one of five national forests in the state. Our forests have been valued for generations and provide the chance for families to play, hike and explore. New Mexico is lucky to have so many forests, and it's important that we protect them.

We want you to participate in our celebration of the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree coming from New Mexico! The "Every Kid Outdoors" initiative invites all U.S. fourth graders and their families to experience the places that are home to our country's natural treasures, rich history, and vibrant culture. The USDA Forest Service, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, and the New Mexico Tourism Department invite fourth-grade students across New Mexico to tell us what you think makes our forests and public lands special. Give it your best shot – the student that writes the best essay will get to travel to Washington D.C. in December to light the 2019 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree and kick off the holiday season New Mexico style!

Essay theme: Delivering Enchantment – how are you enchanted by New Mexico's forests and public lands and why is it important to protect them?

Word count: 500 words maximum

Due date: October 4, 2019

Essays should be submitted to ChristmasTree.Essay@state.nm.us as a typed document **or** as a scanned hand-written document. Please include the name of the student, their teacher and principal, and the name, address and phone number of the student's school.