



Flathead National Forest

Media Release

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Looking for Expo Stories from Former 5th Graders, Teachers and Families

For the past 20 years, Family Forestry Expo has hosted more than 20,000 fifth graders from the Flathead Valley and other communities of Northwest Montana and introduced them to the many uses of natural resources.

In celebration of the event's 20th anniversary, organizers are searching for individuals that experienced Expo as a student, or as a teacher. Rick Moore, this year's co-chairman, said, "We hope to hear about the impacts that Expo may have had on students. Perhaps some of those students entered a related field of study or line of work." Moore said that organizers are also interested to hear stories from teachers, and families that have had multiple generations attending.

Family Forestry Expo is a tradition held every spring. This year Expo is being planned for May 4-10. A group of dedicated individuals, organizations, agencies and businesses work together to provide an enjoyable and educational event that provides unbiased information about forests and the multiple opportunities it provides in our everyday lives.

Each year, local fifth grade students visit Expo throughout the week and learn about natural resource topics. The students visit stations that provide educational presentations about fisheries, aquatic/riparian systems, archaeology, wildlife, fire, backcountry ethics, plant identification, forest management and more. The program is curriculum based and the field stations compliment classroom study. In addition, the students also tour a local sawmill at Plum Creek or Stoltze Lumber.

The following weekend after the student visits, the public is invited to the event. The family-oriented event is the features a .7 mile forest walk that offers educational stations and demonstrations along the way.

Moore said, "We encourage individuals, teachers and families to contact us about their experience with Family Forestry Expo. We hope to capture and share the stories and history of this great community event." Moore also encourages all to join the 20th Anniversary Expo this spring.

For more information about Family Forestry Expo please contact Moore at 751-2268 or visit www.familyforestryexpo.org.

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