



NEWS RELEASE
February 21, 2013

Arbor Day

In celebration of Santa Maria's 32nd year as a Tree City U.S.A, the City of Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department will recognize Arbor Day, March 7 – 14. Tree plantings will be conducted at Tunnell Elementary School, Sanchez Elementary School and Los Flores Ranch Park. School site festivities will include poem recitals and educational activities to teach children the importance of maintaining quality of life through tree preservation in their community.

Participants of all ages are encouraged to enter this year's Arbor Day Photo Contest where the top three photos will be awarded prizes for capturing images of Santa Maria's most beautiful trees. Submissions will be accepted February 21 to March 4. All entries must be original and emailed to dsmitherman@ci.santa-maria.ca.us.

Arbor Day was founded in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton. It is considered an unofficial holiday and is nationally celebrated with the purpose of setting aside a day to plant and appreciate trees.

Questions may be directed to the Recreation and Parks Department at (805) 925-0951 extension 260.

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