



Dear Somerville PTA's,

National Arbor Day is recognized on April 30, 2021. As part of the celebration, the city's Urban Forestry Committee would like to share a fun activity for fifth-grade students. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is hosting an Arbor Day 2021 poster contest themed "The Trees Out Our Window". This contest is sponsored by the DCR, U.S. Forest Service, and the Massachusetts Tree Warden and Foresters Association. Fifth-grade students are invited to create a poster for Arbor Day and submit it for a chance to win prizes for their classroom (details below).

Recognizing the limitations placed on our schools because of the pandemic, the City of Somerville Urban Forestry Committee (UFC) has developed a way for our fifth-graders to participate in this event. This adaptation has been approved by the DCR Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator. Outlined below is the procedure that students can follow to submit their posters. Teachers have the option to incorporate into the virtual classroom or they can simply provide students with the information they need to create their poster. Please share this with 5th grade teachers and families in your school!

The general proposed outline is as follows:

1. Fifth-graders create posters
 - a. Must use the theme "The Trees Out Our Window"
 - b. Must include first name, last initial, teacher's name, name of schools on the back
 - c. Must be photographed clearly and emailed to Somerville's Urban Forestry Committee with a file name in the following format: **JaneD_TeacherLastName_SchoolName**
2. Email images of the posters to somervilleUFC@gmail.com by **March 1, 2021**
3. Posters will be judged by members of the Urban Forestry Committee
4. Students need to hang on to their posters after submission to the committee in case they are chosen to be sent to DCR.
5. UFC will contact each school winner by email. Chosen posters will be collected by the UFC.
NOTE: they can be dropped off at A UFC member's house or can be arranged to pick them up
6. The winning poster from each school is submitted to DCR for a state-wide competition.
*NOTE: Deadline for poster submission to DCR is March 15, 2021 so UFC **must receive posters by March 1, 2021***. UFC will provide the winner from each school with a DCR form that must be completed and submitted along with the poster (for contact purposes).
7. DCR Prizes are awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and honorable mention winners. The DCR will contact students directly, by postal service mail, if their poster is chosen in a winning category. Teachers will also be contacted, by email, if their student is chosen.

The Urban Forestry Committee wants to recognize all participants of this activity. To this end, we will share the image of every student's poster on the City of Somerville [Urban Forestry Committee website](http://www.somervillema.gov/ufc).

If students are in need of basic art supplies to make their posters (paper, markers, colored pencils), parents or teachers can contact the Urban Forestry Committee and we can provide supplies:
somervilleUFC@gmail.com.

Somerville Urban Forestry Committee



We believe that this activity provides a wonderful opportunity for our children to observe trees in their community and increase their understanding of the important role that trees play in an urban environment. It is certain to be a fun and rewarding experience!