



Reforestation FAQ

What type of work is involved in reforestation tree planting?

Planting tree seedlings on old surface mine sites can be fun, but volunteers should expect it to be very hard work.

Although the work of planting trees does not require unusual physical demands, it should be understood that the terrain of the reclaimed surface mine site at Flight 93 National Memorial is very difficult to traverse. The soil has been prepared for tree planting in a way that makes it similar to a deeply plowed agricultural field. The ground is

characterized by rows of deep furrows (or ruts) and high mounds (or ridges). It is rough, rocky ground that may have occasional hidden soft spots underfoot. It ranges from level to moderately steep. The soil may be muddy and difficult to walk in.



I've never planted trees before. Will I be working alone?

Volunteers will be pre-assigned to work in teams of 20 people. Each team will be supervised by a professional forester who will continually work on a one-on-one basis with you, providing



ongoing training and answering any questions you might have. The forester assigned to your team will demonstrate proper techniques and ensure you are planting your seedlings in the correct way. Volunteers will work in pairs for the day. One person will do the planting and the other person will handle the tree seedlings.

What exactly is the process for planting?

Each volunteer pair will have an assigned job. One volunteer may be assigned to planting, which is done with a 10 pound metal tool called a 'dibble bar.' The dibble bar has a heavy spade-like end that is thrust into the soil to make a deep hole for the seedling roots. Volunteers may need to make repeated thrusts into the soil if rocks are encountered. The other volunteer in the pair will handle the trees, carrying about 50 seedlings and peat moss in a plastic bucket weighing about 25 pounds. Your forestry team leader will provide detailed instructions on event day.



What can I do to be ready for event day?

Volunteers should expect cold, windy, wet, muddy conditions and should dress warmly and in layers. Wear comfortable and sturdy boots. Remember to bring rain gear and a pair of work gloves. Dibble bars and buckets will be provided. Consider stretching out before beginning work on event day. Water and lunches will be provided to all registered volunteers.

