

The Importance of Trees

with



Hello Parents and Guardians of Payne Elementary School Students,

My name is Hank Dearden, Executive Director of ForestPlanet, Inc. It was a pleasure working with Ms. Henson and her staff to develop an "importance of trees" curriculum for all Payne Elementary School students. The key points from our presentation included the facts that life starts small, it takes time to grow big and strong, and all living things require patience, care, and nurturing while they are young and delicate.

To experience these points first hand all students at Payne Elementary were given a tree growing kit. During class each student added water to an organic pellet right in the cup, which then became the 'soil' in which the tree seeds were then sewn. The species being grown is Sourwood, a lovely flowering tree that is native to the United States.

Sourwoods like sunlight and moist soil, but also take time to grow. It might be a few weeks before even a small sprout emerges: ➡



We suggest leaving the new seedlings in the cup, and inside, until they are at least 3" tall. At that point we suggest repotting into a bigger container, and keep doing this until the seedling is 2-3 feet tall. At that point it might make sense to start scouting for areas to plant the tree outside. After many years they will hopefully look like this: ➡



Thanks to all the people who contributed the time, money, and other resources required to make this program possible:

- The Payne Elementary School PTSA
- Ms. Henson, and her wonderful volunteers Amy Thomas and Danielle Ciaurro
- Multiple members of the ForestPlanet community
- Ecoprint (ecoprint.com) for offering their reproduction services

Thanks also to the Sonia Ntuk State Farm Insurance Agency. Sonia has provided home, auto, life, and renters insurance to District families for more than 10 years. For more information visit soniantuk.com or call 202-966-6677.



Please visit ForestPlanet.org to learn more about our global reforestation efforts and to join our community. We can also be found online at [Facebook.com/GoNegative](https://www.facebook.com/GoNegative).

GOOD LUCK GROWING YOUR TREE!