

# My Nature Promise Lesson Plan

Created by the Town of Johnstown Office of Communications  
for the Arbor Day Elementary Event



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**Time Needed:** 45 - 60 minutes

**Resources Needed:**

- *Helping Hand Worksheet*
  - *Scissors for students*
  - *Crayons/markers/colored pencils*
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## Plan Instructions

1. Read about Tree City USA with the class (reading below) then answer the questions at the top of the My Nature Promise Worksheet together. Students who answer correctly, are brave enough to venture an answer, or use your best judgement can be awarded with a TOJ squish tree.
2. Ask the class if they think that helping nature by growing trees and taking care of our environment is a good thing. Share that the Mayor of the Town of Johnstown is going to visit us on April 21 to share with us the Town's Tree City USA promise as well as his personal promise as Mayor to give nature a helping hand.
3. Have the students outline their hands on the My Nature Promise Worksheet and decorate their hand with why they think that trees are important or their favorite things about nature.
4. Cut the hands out to the shape of each students hand and have each student bring their hand to the assembly with the Mayor on April 21. Each student, as a sign of their promise to give nature a helping hand, will place their hand on a tree banner at the assembly. These banners will be displayed at the Town Hall all summer long.

## About Tree City USA and the benefit of trees

Tree City USA started in 1976 to bring attention to Arbor Day and the importance of trees in our neighborhoods. Tree City USA even plants new trees in each community. When Tree City USA started there were only 42 communities participating. Now, there are over 3, 500 communities participating in Tree City USA. When neighborhoods have trees in them, there are many benefits. One of these benefits is that trees help make neighborhoods cooler. Trees can protect neighborhoods from the sun. Another benefit of trees in our Town is that trees help get rid of the sound of moving cars. Trees help to make neighborhoods more peaceful. The last benefit of trees in our Town is that trees and plants can help keep us healthy and strong by providing us somewhere to play and exercise. It is nice to go to the park and play in the grass or enjoy the shade of a tree. The Town of Johnstown is a Tree City USA which means that every year, the Town must plant new trees and must take care of its parks and green space. Trees are good for people, so the more trees we have the better we are.



# My Nature Promise



*I promise to give nature a helping hand by helping my family take care of the trees and plants in my yard, by not wasting water, and by cleaning up after myself when I go to the park.*

1. What is one reason that trees are good for neighborhoods?
2. What is another reason that trees are good for our Town/neighborhoods?
3. About how many communities are a part of Tree City USA now?
4. Do you think you would plant a new tree at your house now that you know the benefits?

*In this space, trace an outline of your hand and then decorate your hand with your favorite things about nature!*