

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
FOOD, AND FORESTRY**

2800 N. Lincoln Boulevard

Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4912

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Suzanne McCombs/ suzanne.mccombs@ag.ok.gov/405-421-3071

Oklahoma Foresters Offer a Walk in the Forest at Turkey Mountain

Ready to get outside and enjoy fall? Hikers and walkers of all levels are invited to join foresters from across the state for the annual “Walk in the Forest” event held at Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness Area in southwest Tulsa from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on October 22. Foresters and natural resource professionals from across the state will be stationed along the trail to provide information about the forest, which is located in Tulsa’s backyard. There will additionally be special activities for kids at each station.

“This really is a great opportunity to plan a fun day outdoors with friends and family,” said George Geissler, director, Oklahoma Forestry Services. “Foresters enjoy being on hand to answer your questions and tell you about all of the benefits that our Oklahoma forests provide, some of which may surprise you.”

Hikers should dress appropriately for the weather and wear sturdy, comfortable shoes. The Walk in the Forest will take about an hour if participants stop at each educational station. Kids will receive a special booklet with activities to do along the way and prizes for completing them. Participants will receive a loblolly pine seedling and other giveaways while supplies last.

The Walk in the Forest program is part of a national campaign coordinated by the Society of American Foresters (SAF) and the American Forest Foundation. The Oklahoma walk is being hosted by the Oklahoma Division of SAF, in partnership with Oklahoma Forestry Services; Oklahoma State University (OSU) Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management; the OSU Student SAF Chapter; and the City of Tulsa’s River Parks Authority. Event sponsors include Weyerhaeuser Company, International Paper, Winlectric and the Oklahoma Forestry Association.

For more information about the Walk in the Forest, contact Oklahoma Forestry Services at 405-522-6158 or visit www.forestry.ok.gov. For information and directions to Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness Area, visit www.turkeymtn.com.

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*****NOTE TO EDITORS: Please join us and expect good photo opportunities and comments from the participants.**

Photo captions:

#2506 – Hikers enjoy the first segment of one of many trails at the Turkey Mountain Urban Wilderness Area in Tulsa.

About Oklahoma Forestry Services

Oklahoma Forestry Services, a division of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, is committed to conserving, enhancing and protecting Oklahoma's 12.5 million acres of forests and woodlands. Since 1925 Oklahoma Forestry Services has worked with individuals and communities throughout the state to create resilient landscapes, fire-adaptive communities and provide wildfire response. Headquartered in Oklahoma City, the division also has regional offices in Goldsby, Broken Bow, Wilburton and Tahlequah. For more information, visit <http://www.forestry.ok.gov>.

About the Society of American Foresters: The Society of American Foresters (SAF) is the scientific and educational organization representing nearly 17,000 professional foresters and natural resource professionals in the United States. SAF's primary objective is to advance the science, technology, education and practice of professional forestry for the benefit of all society. The Oklahoma Division of Ouachita Society of American Foresters has about 75 members, but across Oklahoma there are more than 200 professional foresters. Many of these foresters are employed by Oklahoma Forestry Services, Oklahoma State University; the forest industry; and U.S. Forest Service, or are private consulting foresters.

About the American Forest Foundation: The American Forest Foundation (AFF) works to keep forests healthy and our children well-prepared for the future. AFF's sustainable woodland management program, the American Tree Farm System®, helps family forest owners manage more than 26 million acres of forest land. AFF's Project Learning Tree® program works with tens of thousands of teachers each year, giving them a peer-reviewed, award-winning environmental education curriculum that opens a door to America's outdoor heritage and has reached more than 75 million students. AFF works with international, national, state and local partners. In Oklahoma, PLT is sponsored by Oklahoma Forestry Services and the Oklahoma Forestry Association.