



## Operation Evergreen and Holiday Greetings to service personnel overseas....

"Operation Evergreen" is a service project that was developed by the OHIO Christmas Tree Association (OCTA) members in 1995-96. The purpose--bring 'holiday cheer' in the form of REAL fresh cut trees to military personnel serving overseas, in honor of the job they perform.

*This OCTA project has grown from 30 trees to 319 in 2010. In 1999, decorations were included with the trees. Garland, ornaments, cards, short essays, pictures of local vets cutting trees with the children, flags, CD's (homemade with greetings and holiday carols, tree toppers, tree stands (or buckets), and banners are frequently sent with the trees!*

**Handmade items are especially appreciated as a personal touch from you to the troops.**

*Our current target is troops serving in the South West Asian Theatre (Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq).*

**Many of the school children find wishing a 'Happy Holidays' to the parents, aunts, uncles and cousins serving in our armed services an outlet for expressing their personal feelings.**

**This project is also used in schools to augment learning activities on many levels**

--Counting and packaging ornaments, measuring length of garland, celebrating holiday traditions, making and giving gifts, patriotism, Social studies, world history, current events, environmental choices, media relations, organization, participation with local military units and bases, National Guard, local veterans groups

***For every 100 trees--with garland-35' per tree and 48 ornaments each--we could use 4800+ ornaments, 3500 ft of garland, 100 tree toppers and stands!! Multiply that by 3 for the 300 trees that are sent.***

**All the trees, boxes, ornaments, tree stands, packaging and assembly, transportation and shipping overseas is donated.**

(Donations need to be in hand the first week of November, we cut, transport, pack and ship the trees right around Veterans Day--so they arrive between Thanksgiving and the first week in December!) Please include an e-mail address with the donation--the troops have access to e-mail--and they quite often reply!

**If you wish to join in, fill out the information sheet and fax or call me back with your info or any questions you may have...e-mail is OK too. Thank-you for participating**

Amy Galehouse  
Galehouse Tree Farms, Ph: 330-658-2480, 330-607-4487 Fax: 330-658-2485  
E-mail: [galehousetreefarms@bright.net](mailto:galehousetreefarms@bright.net)  
or OCTA office Ph/fAX: 740-828-3331, E-mail; [val@ohiochristmastree.com](mailto:val@ohiochristmastree.com)

## Collection Sites in Ohio for OPERATION EVERGREEN

### Northwestern Ohio

- Whitehouse Christmas Tree Farm, Whitehouse OH, Lucas County, contact Duke Wheeler 419-350-9640
- North Branch Nursery, Pemberville OH, Wood County, contact Tom or Lynette Oberhouse, 419-287-4679
- Kaleidoscope Farms, Mount Cory OH, Hancock county, contact Dave Reese 419-859-3378

### Northeastern Ohio

- Bailey's Christmas Tree Farm, Lordstown OH, Trumbull County, contact Lyle or Dolores Baley, 330-824-2486
- Pioneer Trails Tree Farm, Poland OH, Mahoning County, contact Mary Jan or Fank Perdulla, 330-757-0884
- Galehouse Tree Farms, Doylestown OH, Wayne County, contact Amy Galehouse, 330-658-2480

### Southeastern Ohio

- Saum Family Farm, Lancaster OH, Fairfield County, contact Paul or Lois Saum, 740-969-2058
- Cambridge Trading Co, Cambridge OH, Guernsey County, contact Kathi & Don Albertson 740-432-5329

### Central Ohio

- M&M Tree Farm, Granville OH, Licking County, contact Mike Guttridge 740-587-3492
- Cackler Family Farms, Delaware OH, Delaware County, contact Bill or Donna Cackler 740-524-5311

### Southwestern OH

- Big Tree Plantation, Morrow OH, Warren County, contact Frank or Ann Antenucci 513-899-4624
- Harmony Tree Farm/Carl & Dorothy Young's Trees, Springfield, Greene County, contact Carl Young 937-325-8355 or 937-324-3645

If you do not see a site near to your area—give me a call (330-658-2480,330-607-4487), I can locate a participating farm closer to you and/or send the items to Galehouse Tree Farms, 11762 Coal Bank Rd, Doylestown OH 44230 by the first week in November. Please give me a call if you need any other information or have questions.

Amy Galehouse 330-658-2480 or 330-607-4487

## **OPERATION EVERGREEN**

Operation Evergreen, the service project developed by the OHIO Christmas Tree Association members in 1995 to bring holiday cheer to military units serving overseas--honoring them for the duties they perform away from home--is asking you for your help in making this a well organized operation. If you are donating items for our project, please take the time to fill out the information below to assist us in recognizing all the wonderful help and coordinate the donations.

Name of Organization/Farm \_\_\_\_\_

Street and/or mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

Donated Item(s), description and quantity if more than one:

### **Help us spread Holiday Cheer! Here's this years schedule.**

**Oct 1-Nov 1**—Call, fax, e-mail or snail mail the information on this form.

**Nov 1-Nov 9**--Media events at your farm, press releases to media need to be sent out. If you need help setting these up, call Val in the office for help. General press releases about this event go out from the OCTA office

**Nov 9**-Trees and ornaments are gathered at collection sites for those of you who cannot transport your tree to Reynoldsburg

**Nov 10**—Trees, decorations and other donations and transported to the Ohio Department of Agriculture, Bromfield Administration Building, 8995 East Main St, Reynoldsburg, OH (Franklin Co—east of Columbus). ODA staff members will inspect the trees for overseas shipping starting no later than 1 pm. Items are packed in shipping boxes on site and loaded on a truck for delivery.

**Nov 12**--Trees start their trip overseas ( Kuwait, Afghanistan & Iraq)

**December**—Happy Holidays to the troops!

Contact: Amy Galehouse, Galehouse Tree Farms, 11762 Coal Bank Road, Doylestown, OH, 44230. Phone 330-658-2480, 330-607-4487 or FAX 330-658-2485 or

e-mail [galehousetreefarms@bright.net](mailto:galehousetreefarms@bright.net).

Or OCTA phone/fax: 740-828-3331, e-mail [val@ohiochristmastree.com](mailto:val@ohiochristmastree.com).

### **What information you need and we would like to have.**

1. Let us know what you are donating—WE NEED ORNAMENTS & of course TREES
2. Trees must be a White Pine of a Fir-between 5'6" up to 6', slim or flexible enough to be compressed into a 12"x12" X 84" box.
3. Ornaments/cards need to be packaged in dozens. Garland approx 30-35' long per tree.
4. Include your name, farm address and e-mail info with or on the ornaments (in a plastic bag). Service personnel have access to e-mail and usually will contact you that way.
5. Come lend a helping hand in Reynoldsburg to bale and pack the trees—the more the merrier.
6. Share any responses you receive from the units with us (or come to our winter meeting). Don't forget, let your local media know what you were involved in—share the responses.