

Panda Miti (Tree Planting) Project of the Bishop School Green Bees

Launched Arbor Day, April 27, 2007

Project Description

The Panda Miti (Kiswahili for *tree planting*) campaign encourages young people like our **Bishop Green Bees** and to take action by planting native trees in their own communities while raising funds that will help Roots & Shoots members in Tanzania start tree nurseries and assist with tree planting efforts in the United States. We will seek sponsorships for every tree we plant. This international campaign is a project of the Roots & Shoots Youth Leadership Councils, which are comprised of college students. This is a long-term project for the Bishop Green Bees. We are asking for donations of \$15 per contributor, though no amount is too large or too small!

[Click here to learn more and to contribute](#)

1. Who are we? The Bishop School Green Bees are a [Roots & Shoots](#) affiliated group comprised of 15 first- to third-graders at the Bishop School. The Green Bees mission is to learn about nature, the environment, and sustainable living. We started last year as a Daisies girl scout group, and decided to affiliate with Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots organization this year. Not only are the leadership requirements less rigid, but Roots & Shoots has the focus and resources for a topic that we feel is important for our kids to learn at an early age. We also plan some joint projects with Planet Ottoson, the middle-school Roots & Shoots group based out of the Arlington Enrichment Collaborative. Our membership fee is \$25 per student/school year. Since November, the kids have learned about animal tracks, made group T-shirts, and met with Jane Goodall on March 18. Upcoming Green Bees meetings will center around caring for animals (on ASPCA Day, 4/9), recycling, camping, and bird watching – and of course, trees!
2. **Why plant a tree?** Our local open spaces and the trees within them are an important part of our children's community consciousness. We hope they can learn a great deal about the open spaces of Arlington and the critical environmental function of trees during this long-term project. The type of tree and time of planting will depend on the recommendation of the sponsoring group, and of course we would obtain the approval of the appropriate agency. We also hope to have some horticultural guidance from the flora & fauna committees of Arlington's various "Friends of..." groups.
3. **Educational goals:** There are many educational benefits from this long-term project. The girls will learn about trees and the creatures that benefit from them; about caring for trees; and about the science of how trees grow and interact with the environment. Over time, we will measure, observe, feed, water, research, graph, photograph, sit under, and appreciate our tree. We'll also help the kids track income, expenses, and time spent caring for the tree; and learn how to make presentations to the sponsoring groups. The Green Bees responsible for a tree on particular month will report about their work for the tree at our monthly meeting. We hope the trees survive so the kids can look back on this project when they are adults, and visit the trees with their own children.
4. **The local-global connection:** A big part of this project is to have the kids to simply experience the satisfaction of doing something good for the Earth. We hope that they will also be able to associate the benefit to our own community with having an impact elsewhere in the world. We will also learn



how trees benefit human cultures both here and around the world during the course of the project. When the tree nurseries are built in Tanzania, we will receive photos, news and be able to talk to people who have been there. Maybe some of us will go there!

5. **Publicity:** Besides the actual tree, we hope that any resulting publicity will be part of the benefit to the sponsoring organizations. We will do a project report at www.RootsandShoots.org, and perhaps publicity in the Advocate or in the R&S literature could be something that Friends groups could use in their own fundraising, and businesses in their community relations literature. We are not seeking recognition for our group *per se*, but if promotion of our activity inspires others to join Roots and Shoots organization and do similar activities, that is a good thing.



6. **Fundraising:** We're asking individuals for \$15 contributions and Friends groups for \$10-15 per Green Bees member (\$150-\$225) for each tree we purchase, plant, care for, and tend. Since we prefer not to have the kids to do door-to-door soliciting, we are concentrating on Friends groups and local businesses. We hope to have at least some of the funds in hand by Arbor Day (April 27) but there is some flexibility. More than one organization can sponsor a tree, and an organization/company can sponsor more than one tree. We believe local Friends groups are particularly good partners because of their members' expertise and dedication to the open spaces of Arlington. Each sponsor will receive a regular report on our project.
7. **Where do the funds go?** The funds raised will cover our project expenses and benefit the Panda Miti (tree planting) project of the Roots & Shoots organization for the purpose of building 5 tree nurseries in Tanzania to help with reforestation of habitats for chimpanzees and other creatures. We plan to ask local nurseries and perhaps the DCR for suggestions on how to obtain native trees for free or at a discounted rate. We will try to meet any necessary expenses related to the trees after we send the sponsorship funds to Roots & Shoots.
8. **Quotes from our local Roots & Shoots members:**
"Trees grow up and down." - 1st grader
"I mean really, why drive anywhere when you can walk?" - 1st grader
"Mom, how come our recycling bins are always so heavy?" - 3rd grader
"Biking uses renewable energy, as long as you keep feeding me!" - 7th grader

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