

# Cacapon Institute

#10 Rock Ford Road  
Great Cacapon, West Virginia 25422  
Cell: 240-431-3443 Office: 304-258-8013  
[phlow@cacaponinstitute.org](mailto:phlow@cacaponinstitute.org)  
<http://www.cacaponinstitute.org>



*Potomac Headwaters Leaders of Watersheds*

## **Growing Native Application Guidelines**

Educating future generations of environmental stewards through in classroom education and on the ground conservation practices at schools.



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### **WHAT IS GROWING NATIVE?**

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The Growing Native program is one of three complete MWEs offered by Cacapon Institute. MWEs or Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences include classroom education, student-led investigations, scientific debate, consensus building, and hands-on conservation action.

The Growing Native program focuses on the structure and importance of native trees within our rural and urban landscapes. This program requires four education sessions which uncover the connections between trees and the health of rivers. For the conservation project, students will propagate native seeds in the Fall and pot tree seedlings in the Spring. At the conclusion of the program, propagated seeds can be taken home by students and potted tree seedlings can be sold as a school fundraiser, planted on school property, or donated to a local watershed group.

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## WHAT DO THE FALL AND SPRING PROGRAMS ENTAIL?

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### - Fall Program: Tub Grow-Out Station



- Students collect seeds from their home or local park as individuals and bring them into school on planting day
- Students plant seeds in a temporary eighteen-gallon storage bins
- Students monitor progress of their trees through the school year and can take them home at the conclusion of the year

### - Spring Program: Fenced Grow-Out Station



- Students will plant tree seedlings in pots that grow for multiple years in a semi-permanent 10-foot by 20-foot structure alongside the building
- When the trees are big enough, they can be sold as a school fundraiser, planted on school property, or donated to a local watershed group

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## WHAT ARE THE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS?

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- Program must take place at a public or private school within the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, or Western Maryland
  - Grow-Out Stations must be located on school property with access to water spigot
- The school must be committed to participating in the classroom lessons led by Cacapon Institute
- The school must assist in the planning and execution of the seed planting
- The school must support the ongoing maintenance of trees (see Maintenance agreement form, which will be provided by Cacapon Institute staff)

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## WHAT ARE CACAPON INSTITUTE'S RESPONSIBILITIES?

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- Cacapon Institute's Watershed Education Coordinator will lead four, fifty-minute lessons
  - o Watersheds 101: What are they and do I live in one?
  - o Trees Inside and Out: What is the role of each part of the tree?
  - o Tree Characteristics: How do I identify native tree species?
  - o Pollution Buffers: How do trees reduce pollution?
- Provide pots, soil, Grow-Out Station, and planting instructions
- Lead the planting with each class or group of students
- Assist with maintenance of Grow-Out Station

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## WHAT ARE THE SCHOOL'S RESPONSIBILITIES?

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- Choose between the Fall or Spring Growing Native programs
- Maintain the Grow-Out Stations throughout the course of the program
- Sell, plant, or donate trees to make room for new seeds/trees
- Keep a record of all volunteer hours for final project report



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## READY TO APPLY?

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Are you ready to engage students in hands-on conservation? Are you ready to help protect rivers and watersheds? Are you ready to help grow trees that will eventually increase urban tree canopy and receive the benefits of more trees at your school? *If so, Cacapon Institute is prepared to help you achieve your goals!*

*Please follow a link below to complete an application:*

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[GOOGLE FORM](#)

[CACAPON INSTITUTE](#)

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For more information on Cacapon Institute or PHLOW, please contact Cacapon Institute's Watershed Education Coordinator, Victoria Lusk, by emailing [phlow@cacaponinstitute.org](mailto:phlow@cacaponinstitute.org).