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Search Launched for "Great American Tree"

As long summer days draw near, more daylight will be available to capture photos of a truly Great American Tree. The American Grove has launched its annual competition for the extraordinary tree that will represent the nation's canopy as 2017's "Great American Tree." The competition theme this year is "trees that epitomize the meaning of summer," such as trees that provide cool summer shade, hold tire swings, or bring back summer memories.

The national competition for remarkable trees is in its third year at www.Americangrove.org. Submissions must be uploaded online by the deadline of August 4. Entries must include a description of why the tree is special, its location, species, size including (estimated) height and/or diameter, and photographs displaying the special characteristics of the nominated tree. Nominations will be shared via social media, including Facebook (The Grove), Twitter (@plantyourlegacy; #greatamericantree #GATC17), and Instagram (@plantyourlegacy). Nominations may also be submitted as an email attachment to morgan@americangrove.org.

After the submission period has ended, American Grove members will have 10 days to cast one vote for their favorite entry. The top five vote winning trees will move on to the next round of the competition. An "all star" urban forestry panel will determine the winner of the 2017 Great American Tree, which will be announced on September 1. The first place winner will receive \$500, second place is \$250, and third place is \$100. The winning tree will earn a feature on The American Grove homepage, along with a lasting legacy under the Great American Tree tab showing winners from previous years. The 2016 Great American Tree was *'The Largest Tree in Arkansas,'* a champion bald cypress.

The American Grove is an online community for sharing experiences and knowledge about trees and the benefits they provide to communities throughout the nation. It is managed by the Georgia Urban Forest Council, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to sustain Georgia's green legacy by partnering with individuals, organizations and communities in raising awareness about improving and maintaining Georgia's community forests. Assistance is also given by the Georgia Forestry Commission, which provides leadership, service and education in the protection and conservation of Georgia's forest resources. Learn more at GaTrees.org.

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www.AmericanGrove.org