

4th Grade Essay Contest

Want to help light the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree?
Submit an essay for a chance to be the Tree Lighting Helper!

Submissions window:
Tuesday, September 8, 2026 -
Wednesday September 30, 2026

Prompt:
*“Why are healthy forests and
clean water in Idaho important?”*



All submissions must:

- be between 350-500 words,
- answer the prompt,
- be received by the closing date of the contest,
- be an original essay written by the contest participant,
- certify the essay is not AI generated and
- have approval of a parent or guardian to participate.

Entry form is available here:

<https://tinyurl.com/YouthTreeLighter>

Specific rules and details are available on the Capitol Christmas Tree website:

<https://www.uscapitolchristmastree.com/>