



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

A PROCLAMATION

GEORGIA ARBOR DAY

- WHEREAS:** The first Arbor Day was celebrated in 1872 as a special day for planting trees. Since then, it has grown to thousands of celebrations in communities across our nation each year; and
- WHEREAS:** Community trees improve public health and air and water quality, reduce the erosion of precious topsoil, and increase property values and economic vitality in business areas. They also increase energy efficiency through shade, provide habitats for wildlife, and beautify neighborhoods, parks, streets and residential developments; and
- WHEREAS:** All of Georgia benefits from urban and community forestry, which contributes more than \$4 billion to our state's economy and provides employment for more than 46,000 people; and
- WHEREAS:** Community forestry leaders and partners will come together at the annual statewide Arbor Day celebration in Macon, Georgia to celebrate the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA, Tree Campus USA, and Tree Line USA programs as well as the Georgia Forestry Commission's Sustainable Community Forestry Program; now
- THEREFORE:** I, BRIAN P. KEMP, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim February 21, 2020 as ARBOR DAY in Georgia and encourage our citizens to plant trees, thus leaving a legacy for present and future generations.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 7th day of January in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty.



B. Kemp

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Trinity K. Fleming

CHIEF OF STAFF