Hi! My name is Ranger Jeff and it’s my job to keep Armenia green but I need your help too. Why do you think it’s important to take care of your environment? Do you take care of the trees in your community? Armenia Tree Project does! We plant trees in Armenia, teach children why trees are important and help families in Armenia to live in a more green and beautiful place.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter about Armenia’s environment made just for you!

Armenia and the United States are two very different countries but have similar landscapes. It is important for us to know what type of landscape is around us so that we can take care of it. One way for us to know is to look at a map. Do you recognize the similarities or differences?

Can you identify a state in the US that is the same size as Armenia?
The International Year of Forests is this year! We need to spread the word about why it is important to take care of trees so that we can all live in a clean and beautiful world.

Why trees are important:
- Clean the air
- Clean the soil
- Control noise pollution
- Absorb rain
- Produce oxygen
- Provide shade
- Protect us from strong wind
- Make communities more beautiful

Interesting fact:
Two types of trees are conifers and hardwoods

GLOSSARY
- Oxygen: found in 21% of the air we breathe
- Pollution: introduction of things in the ecosystem that cause disorder and harm
- Communities: a place where people live together
- International: two or more nations in the world
- Absorb: to soak up

CAN YOU FIND THE HIDDEN WORD IN EACH BRANCH?
WHAT DOES ARMENIA TREE PROJECT DO?

Armenia Tree Project began in 1994 when Armenians needed to cut down trees for heating and cooking fuel in their homes. Armenia’s forest began to disappear! For over 17 years, ATP has planted trees all over Armenia to make it green again.

Here is what we do to help:

WE PLANT TREES!
We have programs that help rebuild damaged and lost forests. We also work with families in villages to help us plant trees at parks, schools, churches and other public places where trees have been cut down.

GLOSSARY
Desert - an area of land with little to no plants
Energy - the use of power
Ecosystem - a web of all living and non-living parts of the environment (plants, animals, soil, rocks etc.)
Fuel - source of energy

WE HELP THE POOR
70% of the trees cut in Armenia are used for heating homes because there are no other forms of energy in many villages. If this continues to happen, Armenia will become a desert in 20 years. That is in your lifetime! We provide jobs to people to help us plant trees in their communities.

WE TEACH KIDS
We teach children like you about the plants, animals, and ecosystems that make Armenia such a special place. We also explain why it’s important to take care of trees and the environment.

Can you identify the different parts of a tree?

Did you know that ATP has planted over 3.5 million trees! Wow, that’s a lot of trees!
HOW TO PLANT A TREE

Planting trees can be fun and provide food and homes for animals! ATP has planted a lot of trees and we would like to teach you how by following these simple steps. Before we start digging, we are always sure to check out the following:

Look up
Make sure there are no overhead wires or utilities.

Look around
Make sure there is plenty of room for your tree to grow. We always check the soil to make sure it is rich with nutrients (dark in color and not a lot of rocks in the soil). Are there other trees nearby? If so, this will be a perfect spot.
Make sure that there is water nearby and that someone can take care of the tree.

Pick a hardy tree that is from your area
We don’t want to plant a tree and have it die because it can’t tolerate the local climate.
We make sure we know which trees are native to the local area.

Now that...
You’ve picked the right tree for the right place, you’ve got just a couple more things to do. Make sure it is safe to dig because you don’t want to hit an underground utility line.
Plant your tree in either the fall, after all of the leaves start to fall or in the spring just before the tree starts to grow new leaves.

Don’t forget ...
About your tree after you’ve planted it!
Be sure to water it regularly throughout the first growing season.
Allow water to run slowly, soaking the soil, once or twice a week.
From time to time, check for broken branches, disease, pests or other problems that may need attention.

Have fun and enjoy your tree!
Armenia’s forests provide a home for many different plants and animals. Can you find the 7 objects hidden in this picture?

Look for the beautiful **butterfly**
And the **fish** swimming by

Can you find the **lily** flower
Or **Ranger Jeff** on the plower

I think I see a big **brown bear**
Be careful not to stare

Try to spy a flying **hawk**
And a great big green **bean** stalk
BREAKING NEWS: EVERYONE WANTS TO BE PART OF BUILDING BRIDGES!

Building Bridges is an exciting ATP program that helps students learn about Armenia's environment and unique plants and animals. You can connect with students in each others’ countries and become friends to share thoughts about your environment! ATP can even arrange for you to visit our beautiful nursery at Karin Village and plant trees together.

Students from California’s Ari Guiragos Minassian School and Yerevan’s School No. 190 meet at ATP’s Ohanian Environmental Education Center

A young girl from Khachik Village in Armenia gathers crates of fresh apples from the fall harvest

ATP’s Executive Director Jeff Masarjian (aka Ranger Jeff) has some fun with students from the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School in California

ATP’s Community Tree Planting Manager Arthur Harutyunyan teaches students how to plant a tree

St. Stephen’s Armenian Elementary School students from Watertown, MA at ATP’s Karin nursery
WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Ranger Jeff and Armenia Tree Project are working hard to help Armenia become a greener and even more beautiful homeland and we invite you to help!

Here’s what you can do to help:
You can continue to learn about Armenia’s environment by reading ATP’s newsletters and you can visit our website at www.armeniatree.org

You can even help ATP plant even more trees by doing things such as organizing fun activities to raise small amounts of money to sponsor trees. Even the smallest amount of money can make a difference and change the life of someone just like you!

You can also contact ATP’s Watertown Office (info@armeniatree.org) if you would like to connect with other students in Armenia to exchange information about your environment and your community.

ARMENIA TREE PROJECT
400 W Cummings Park, Suite 3900
Woburn, MA 01801
(617) 926-TREE (8733)
info@armeniatree.org
www.armeniatree.org

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Connecting Diaspora Armenian Students with Their Environmental Heritage

The Building Bridges website is a new place to discover more fun ways to learn about ATP and Armenia’s environment. http://www.armeniatree.org/buildingbridges