



Dear

Date:

A tree on your property was nominated for the Maryland Big Tree Program and we would like to measure it. The purpose of the program is to identify the largest trees of each species in Maryland. Besides the obvious purpose of identification, the program helps identify potential genetic improvements and species range and reproduction.

We would like your permission to measure your tree. The measurement process does not harm your tree; we do not take core samples. We measure the outside circumference of the tree, the height, and crown spread. The official formula is: Circumference (in inches measured at 4.5 feet. from the ground) + Tree Height (in feet) + one fourth of the Average Crown Spread. The point value obtained by this formula is then compared to the current Maryland State Champion. If your tree's score is higher than the current State champion, it will replace the old champion on our list. If your tree(s) score is within 70% of the current State champion, the tree will be added to the Maryland Big Tree Register, and you will receive an official certificate of registration. If your tree is added to our official database, we will only list your town as the location of the tree and not publish your name and address. This service is free and does not impact your property rights in any way. You retain full ownership and may care for the tree(s) as you see fit. The Maryland Big Tree Program is administered through a partnership between the Maryland Forest Service and the Maryland Forestry Foundation. Volunteers participating in official program activities are provided primary coverage under the Maryland Tort Claims Act and secondary coverage through the Maryland Forestry Foundation.

Please sign and return the form below if you give permission for us to re-measure, photograph and register your tree. Unless you indicate otherwise, a photo of your tree may be displayed on the Maryland Big Tree website, www.mdbigtrees.org. Please contact me at 610-467-1247, or at mdbigtreeprogram@aol.com if you have any questions. Return to John Bennett, PO Box 328, North East, MD 21091 using the enclosed envelope or email the form with a facsimile signature to mdbigtreeprogram@aol.com.

Sincerely,

John Bennett

I do ___ do not ___ give permission for my tree(s) to be measured, photographed, registered, and added on the web site at www.mdbigtrees.org for the Maryland Big Tree Program.

Signature of Property Owner

Date

Name Email Phone Tree County