

FOREST EDUCATION

The GFC continues to be very concerned with educating the general public about Georgia's timber industry. Georgia's timber industry now contributes over 30 billion dollars to the State's economy each year, making this the number one industry in Georgia. The GFC is responsible for educating the public on the importance of forestry operations in our everyday life, as well as the importance of proper fire prevention.

During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, employees in E-L-L invested 366 hours through 191 programs. These programs involved teaching children of all ages, as well as adults, about fire safety and proper forest management practices. These programs reached over 69,026 citizens of E-L-L. Employees also conducted 149 Home Site Risk Assessments to homeowners in "At Risk" areas, educating them on making their homes less susceptible to damage from wildfires

Some of the programs that the E-L-L Forestry Units were involved with this year included:

1. Stalvey Ag Day
2. Raisin' Cane/Langdale Foundation Art Competition/ My Farm & Working Forest
3. Arbor Day Programs at City of Hahira, City of Valdosta, City of Lakeland
4. Langdale and Southwind FFA Field Day
5. Lake Park Elementary, Echols County Schools and Lanier County Career Days. Pine Grove Middle STEM Career Day.
6. Lanier County Farm Day, 4-H Safety Day, Lanier High School Forestry class, Flatlanders Youth Fishing Derby.
7. Azalea Festival
8. Chamber and County Commission Meetings
9. Hahira & Lakeland Christmas Parades
10. Fire Prevention/Smokey Programs at: Open Bible School, St. Johns School, Crossroads Baptist School, Brookfield Academy, Miss Mother's Daycare, Lanier Primary, and Valdosta Regional Library summer program.