

First Place – Lila Johnson of Spink Conservation District

Old branches sway down by the river. My favorite tree on the farm is home to eagles. On our farm, we call it the Bald Eagle Tree. The tree has been through a lot from fires, floods, drought, and many more. It has also watched my farm grow from small to big. The tree has stood tall and strong for a long time. The eagles have a huge nest to have their young. Every year, the eagles fly away but they always come back. The baby and its parents will fly around while we plant our fields. The tree watches the eagles fly. If a storm comes, the tree will protect them. If the tree were to die, everyone would be sad. But the tree protects them through it all. That's why I think people should plant trees. Trees are very important.

Second Place – Onassis Darnell of Miner Conservation District Seasons' Trees

Trees in the summer are bright green,
Not many leaves fall from the trees then.
I like to look at those trees,
Again and again and again.

Trees in the spring are very pretty,
Never are they dull.
Some blossoms are bright pink,
And you can't see them
At all in the fall.

Trees in the fall are the most pretty of all.
Yellow, orange, purple, red.
Those are the trees I like best
To see when I first get out of bed.

Trees in the winter are lonely trees.
The wind howls as it soars through the empty branches.
No leaves at all.

Third Place – Jace Grimes of Jackson Conservation District

When I was a little kid, I had three tree areas, and in this essay, I am going to give credit to all of them for giving me a good childhood.

Hope you enjoy.

There was once a giant tree, it provided food for animals like deer, bugs, and even elk. One day I was digging in the dirt while playing with the ants. When I got done with that, I was trying to climb the tree, and the tree branch snapped! I fell out of it. I just kept trying to climb it, until I got up high into the tree's branches.

Now I'm going to tell you about the next tree. There was another tree, but it was dead. It meant a lot to me. I enjoyed it, because Own and I had some good laughs among the branches. One of them was when Own tried climbing on it and fell off. If you are wondering why that is funny, it was because his sweatshirt got caught and he was "just hanging there."

Eight years ago, when we moved to South Dakota, there were no trees. After we got our house up, I helped plant forty pine and oak trees, which is now a windbreak for our horses.

Trees are important and always provide fun and excitement to those that take the time to plant them, play in them, and cherish them. Plant a tree this Arbor Day.