

# Christmas Tradition

## Help Santa Find The Perfect Real Christmas Tree

(NAPSA)—Santa is looking for the perfect Real Christmas Tree.

While artificial trees are made from non-biodegradable metals and plastics, Real Christmas trees are a benefit to the environment from the time they are planted until after the holiday season, when they can be recycled.

While they're growing, traditional Real Christmas trees support life by absorbing carbon dioxide and other gases and emitting fresh oxygen. The North American farms that grow Christmas trees stabilize soil, protect water supplies and provide refuge for wildlife while creating scenic greenbelts.

In fact, some communities use Christmas trees to make effective sand and soil erosion barriers, especially at beaches and on riverbeds. Sunk into private fish ponds, trees make excellent refuge and feeding areas for fish.

Among the homes that have a traditional Real Christmas tree is one of the country's best-known: the White House. The famous Rockefeller Center tree in New York City is also a natural tree.

The practice of using a living tree to celebrate the holidays is gaining in popularity.



**Grand prize winner Dana Brittany Smith and her family from Greensboro, N.C.**

Now kids ages 6 to 18 have a chance to show off their family trees—and maybe win a great prize. Prizes in the National Christmas Tree Association 2005 essay contest include:

- \$5,000 or \$10,000 scholarships
- All-expenses paid trips for four to Orlando, Fla.
- And many other exciting prizes

To enter, simply get an entry form, take a picture of your family tree and explain in 300 words or less why yours is the perfect Real Christmas tree.

The contest begins November 1, and all entries must be received by December 31. For more information, official rules or an entry form, visit [www.realchristmastrees.org](http://www.realchristmastrees.org).