

### Turning Kyushu Forests into Fun Classrooms with "Play Forest" Events

Starting in FY2016, we have hosted "Play Forest" environmental education events in different forests around Kyushu to cultivate an interest in the environment amongst children, encouraging them to "learn," "protect" and "enjoy" nature. In collaboration with a number of environmental groups and companies in Kyushu, we set up a variety of booths in the forests, such as a "My Chopstick Making" booth, to provide families with first-hand, educational fun.

During FY2017, we intend to increase the number of these hands-on experiences which teach children about the importance of protecting the natural environment, and we will expand them to a variety of forests throughout Kyushu.

#### Activity Results (FY2016)

Region	Date	Venue	Attendance
Kitakyushu	March 12, 2017	Kitakyushu Municipal Yamada Park (Kokurakita-ku, Kitakyushu City)	737 people
Fukuoka	May 15, 2016	Aburayama Citizens' Forest in Fukuoka City (Minami-ku, Fukuoka City)	545 people
	November 23, 2016	Koga Green Park (Koga City, Fukuoka Prefecture)	775 people
Saga	February 26, 2017	Saga Prefectural Shinrin Park (Saga City)	909 people
Nagasaki	November 05, 2016	Tokusengawachi Mountain Village (Omura City, Nagasaki Prefecture)	146 people
Kumamoto	March 05, 2017	Misato Garden Place (Misato-machi, Shimomashiki-gun, Kumamoto Prefecture)	524 people
Miyazaki	October 23, 2016	Hokedake Park (Kunitomi-cho, Higashimorokata-gun, Miyazaki Prefecture)	214 people
Kagoshima	March 19, 2017	Kagoshima Municipal Shonen Shizen-no-le (Kagoshima City)	451 people
Total (eight events)			4,301 people



"My Chopstick Making" using timber from forest thinning



Tree climbing with rope



"Spinning bread" dough wrapped around bamboo and roasted



### My Environmental Action

Children's smile is such a heartwarming sight!

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I participated in Kagoshima's first "Play Forest" event, working as event staff with members of the Kyushu Electric Power Company Alumni Association to help run the "Birdhouse Building Corner." The children were interested and full of questions like, "Why can't we paint the birdhouse?" or "Why do we have to put a

hole in the bottom of the birdhouse?" They listened very carefully to our explanations about how to make a comfortable living environment for the birds and were very fastidious about following our instructions.

They were unfamiliar with how to use the drills and burners, but they persevered until they finished their birdhouse, exclaiming, "I'm going to hang this in my backyard!" It was heartwarming to see the pure joy in their faces.

I would love to continue helping with these Play Forest events, using them as opportunities to impart a wonder and love of nature to children so full of honesty and curiosity.



## Environmental Education Activities in the Kuju Kyuden Forest

The Kyuden Mirai Foundation (established in May 2016 in response to community demand and in service of further enriching our community-based outreach and problem-solving contributions) joined together with Kyushu Electric Power Group company Kyushu Rinsan to provide a hands-on educational experience within the abundant greenery of the Kuju Kyuden Forest located around Yamashita Pond (Yufu City, Oita Prefecture) and owned by the Kyushu Electric Power.

This environmental education program sought to raise children's environmental awareness by combining discussions about the current state of global warming and the role forests play in mitigating it with "Forestry Experience," "Forest Observation," "Carpentry Workshop" and other hands-on learning.

### Activity Results (FY2016)

	Next generation-focused	Parent and child-focused
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targets schools and groups</li> <li>• Runs throughout the year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targets parents and children</li> <li>• Runs as a summer holiday event</li> </ul>
Frequency	15	4
Participants	530	208
Total	19 events, 738 people	



Forestry Experience



Forest Observation



Carpentry Workshop