

# *Festival of Trees*

## Sharing Family History

Families and communities have a rich history. You can record your own story by following the steps below. When documenting your story, it's best to focus on the memories, instead of dates and times. Stories have emotions and feelings so we need to ask how people feel about things. Sometimes what we are experiencing involves more than just emotion. What did you see, smell, feel, hear, and taste?

### What's Your Story?

1. Start with what you know; you!
  - a. With your grown up, gather together paper records, photos and objects that help tell the story of you.
  - b. Organize them into chronological order (the order that they happened). Starting with a copy of your birth certificate or an announcement go through school projects, yearbooks, diaries, sports games, music or dance awards to the present day.
  - c. Take pictures or make copies of these documents. You can organize them into a binder, scrapbook, or a computer file.
2. Ask your grown up what they remember about your entering the family, or about the time they helped with a school project, or one of the events you put in your timeline.
3. Using the tools of an interviewer, record them sharing those memories of you.
  - b. Share those memories in your binder or digital file with the other records.
  - c. Think about interviewing yourself and sharing your own memories of these events to share.
3. Take an inventory of objects that are important to you and help to tell the story of you!
  - a. Fill out a sheet about that object and add that to your binder or file, too.
4. Now that you have completed these steps to help tell the story of you, think about how you might record the story of other people in your family or other objects that are important to your family. Why not try these steps to record the story of someone important to you?

More resources on family and oral history can be found online:

- [Heirloom Hunt – Family History Activity for Kids and Grandparents](#)
- [50 Questions from an Oral Historian; Family Interview Questions](#)
- [Family Heirloom Inventory Spreadsheet](#)
- [Family History Activities for Ages 3-11](#)