

PRESS RELEASE



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Idaho Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner Advances to National Competition

(Boise...April 19) Kerrington Jones, a fifth-grade student at Prairie View Elementary School in Post Falls is the Idaho state winner in the 2010 Arbor Day Poster Contest.

Jones' entry was selected by a panel of judges from the Idaho Forest Products Commission (IFPC) and the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), co-sponsors of the contest. This year students were asked to create a poster reflecting the theme: "Trees are Terrific...and Energy Wise!". Teachers used accompanying materials to educate students about the theme and the importance of planting and caring for trees.

Fifth-grade students from across Idaho participated in the contest this year. As the state winner, Kerrington Jones will receive a \$150 US Savings Bond. A tree will be planted in her honor at the Capitol during the State Arbor Day celebration on April 30th and a stone marker noting her achievement will be set at its base. Jones' will be recognized at this celebration and she will receive a poster made of her award-winning artwork from the Governor. Additionally, her teacher Jamie Pine will receive \$50 in cash for classroom supplies. Prize money and poster reproduction is sponsored by revenues from Idaho Forestry License Plates, which support reforestation efforts and educational projects such as the poster contest.

As Idaho's state winner, Jones is now entered in the national contest which is sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota Motor Corporation.

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Arbor Day is a great time for students to learn about Idaho's forests and all the things they provide. It's important that students consider this important renewable and sustainable resource growing in their own back yard," said Betty Munis, Director of the Idaho Forest Products Commission. "The Forest Products Commission is delighted to be a sponsor of the Arbor Day Poster Contest. The posters offer a refreshing view of forests through the eyes of a 5th grader."

George Bacon, Idaho State Forester and Director of IDL noted, "Art is a wonderful way for students, like Kerrington Jones, to explore and learn how trees grow, function and benefit our communities. An appreciation and understanding of the importance of trees is clearly fostered. Their posters encourage us all to value and care for our community forests now and into the future."

In addition to Jones, Stephen Davenport, from Heyburn Elementary in St. Maries, was selected as second place state winner and Marcel Epkey of the Immaculate Conception Academy in Post Falls, took third. Davenport will receive a \$100 bond and Epkey will receive a \$50 bond. Their teachers will also receive \$50 for classroom supplies.

Pictures of the winning posters can be viewed at www.idl.idaho.gov (click on Arbor Day in the A-Z Index). Copies of the poster will be available through the Idaho Forest Products Commission later this year. You can also learn more about Arbor Day and Idaho forests at www.idahoforests.org.

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