



State of Oklahoma
Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry

2800 N. Lincoln Blvd., P.O. Box 528804, Oklahoma City, OK 73152 (405) 521-3864

www.oda.state.ok.us

Brad Henry
Governor

Terry L. Peach
Secretary and Commissioner

August 18, 2009

Dear 5th Grade & Art Teachers:

Please join us for the 2010 *Arbor Day National Poster Contest*, celebrating 18 years of participation in Oklahoma! It is designed to increase students' awareness of the importance of trees in our lives and encourage celebrations during Oklahoma's Arbor Week, March 21-27, 2010. The curriculum materials are written to meet national science, art and social studies standards. Oklahoma Forestry Services, The National Arbor Day Foundation and the Oklahoma Urban and Community Forestry Council sponsor the contest at the state level.

TREES ARE TERRIFIC...and Energy Wise!

"Trees are Terrific...and Energy Wise!" is the contest theme for 2010. The curriculum packet, available at www.arborday.org/postercontest, offers fun ways to help students explore the benefits of community and urban trees. You may use all or any part of the activity guide to help your students investigate tree benefits when properly placed around buildings, urban planning and energy conservation. The history of National Arbor Day and ideas for great school celebrations are also included. You can also order a free Arbor Day celebration guide to use with students next spring as well as see pictures of past national poster winners. An opportunity for online judging of the national winner will be available in late March at www.arborday.org.

ELIGIBILITY

All fifth grade level students are eligible. Any student may only enter the contest once. Students need not enter as part of a school classroom. Scout groups, home school associations, etc. are all invited to enter.

TO ENTER (PLEASE read this section carefully)

Encourage your fifth graders to design posters that fit the theme "Trees are Terrific...and Energy Wise!" *The theme must be written, exactly, on the poster!* Posters must follow the contest rules listed in the Curriculum Packet. Please follow the contest guidelines carefully including attaching the official entry form to the back of your school or organization poster entry. Posters must be reproducible (clear, vivid colors) and **signed** in the lower right corner by the student. Check spelling and make sure lettering is legible from several steps away!

CHOOSING THE WINNERS

Select local judges to vote for *one* school or organization winner. The poster that wins your local contest must be **received** at the Oklahoma Forestry Services office by **5:00 pm Friday November 20, 2009**. Our state winners will be selected from the individual school winners. First, second and third place prizes will be awarded at the state level. Oklahoma's first place entry will go on to compete in the national contest sponsored by The National Arbor Day Foundation. Oklahoma has won the national contest the past 2 years, in 2008 and 2009!

PRIZES FOR TEACHERS

\$50 gift certificates for classroom materials will be given to the teachers of the first, second and third place winners in Oklahoma. The state first place teacher will also receive a one-year membership to both the National Arbor day foundation and the OK Urban & Community Forestry Council. The first, second and third place winners' school libraries will each receive a copy of the reference book **Forest Trees of Oklahoma**.

PRIZES FOR STUDENTS

Oklahoma's first place student will receive a **\$100 savings bond** and a framed copy of his or her winning poster. The student's artwork will be printed as a poster and OK Forestry Services will distribute it statewide prior to our state Arbor Week in March of 2010. Second place will receive a **\$75 savings bond** and third place will receive a **\$50 savings bond** along with their framed original artwork.

First, second and third place winners will each receive a **redbud tree**, to be planted in their honor by OK Forestry Services personnel, at the student's school during Arbor Week 2010.

The National winner receives a **\$1000 savings bond, a trip to Nebraska** including parents and teacher and a lifetime membership to the National Arbor Day Foundation. All state winners will be part of a national traveling display which usually makes a stop at the US Botanical Gardens in Washington DC.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may announce your school winner at any time. Forestry Services will announce the state winner in mid January and The National Arbor Day Foundation will announce the national winner in mid April just prior to national Arbor Day on April 30th, 2010. We're looking forward to seeing your students' creative artwork! I am excited about the opportunity this contest provides Oklahoma's fifth graders to foster an understanding of the importance of caring for our environment and conserving energy.

Sincerely,



Christina Stallings Roberson
State Arbor Day Poster Contest Coordinator
Oklahoma Forestry Services
2800 N. Lincoln Blvd OKC, OK 73105
(405) 522-6158 christina.stallings@oda.state.ok.us