



**DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE**

NEWS RELEASE

2320 S. DuPont Highway, Dover, Delaware 19901

www.delawareforest.com

To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors
Date: January 26, 2009 **Number of pages: 1**

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Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest for Delaware Schools

2009 Contest Theme - "Trees Are Terrific... In Cities and Towns"

(Dover, DE) The Delaware Forest Service is inviting public and private school students in Grades K-5 to enter its 16th Annual Arbor Day Poster Contest.

This year's theme is "Trees Are Terrific... in Cities and Towns." The deadline for entries is March 1, 2009. All posters will be judged on their use of theme, originality, neatness, and artistic expression. In addition, all schools entering the contest are eligible to participate in the annual free seedling program. Rules, application packets, and information on the Delaware Forest Service's Annual Free Seedling Program can be found at the web site: www.delawareforest.com. Pictures of last year's winning entries are at <http://dda.delaware.gov/forestry/arborpost08.shtml>.

The Delaware Forest Service will select a winner from each county in the following three categories: Kindergarten, Grades 1-2, and Grades 3-4. From these county winners, one overall state winner will be chosen. Students can win a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond, a holly tree, and a tree ceremony at their school. Winning posters will also be displayed on the state forestry website.

The winning 5th grade poster will go on to represent Delaware in the National Arbor Day Poster Contest, in which the national winner gets a \$1,000 savings bond plus an all-expense-paid trip to the National Award Weekend in Nebraska!

The Delaware Forest Service will honor the poster contest winners, their parents, and teachers at the State Arbor Day Ceremony on April 24, 2009. This year's ceremony will be held at the Blackbird State Forest Education Center and will include the opening of a new arboretum.

All entries and requests for free seedlings must be sent to the State Coordinator Ashley Ward by March 1, 2009 at the Delaware Forest Service, 2320 S. DuPont Highway, Dover, DE 19901. Call (302) 698-4551 for information, or send an email to: ashley.ward@state.de.us. No contest entries or seedling requests will be accepted after March 1st.