



**DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE**

PHOTO RELEASE

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**5th-Grader from Wilmington's Claymont Elementary is the
Delaware Representative to the National Arbor Day Poster Contest**

(Dover) A beautiful watercolor poster by Sophia Kottenhahn Leslie, a 5th-grader from Claymont Elementary in Wilmington, will compete against entries from all over the United States as Delaware's representative in the Arbor Day Foundation's National Poster Contest. Her winning poster receives a \$100 U.S. Savings Bond, a ceremonial tree planting at her school, plus a chance to win \$1000 and a trip to Nebraska if selected for the national award.

An "art gallery" of this year's winning posters will be on display when the statewide winners and their families meet Governor Jack Markell and participate in the state's official Arbor Day ceremony at Blackbird State Forest on Friday, April 24, 2009 at 11 a.m. Representatives from the U.S. Forest Service will be on hand for festivities that include the opening of a new arboretum and education trail at the Blackbird State Forest Education Center.

This year's theme of "Trees are terrific... in cities and towns" attracted so many outstanding entries that the selection committee added awards for second and third place winners in the 5th-grade contest for the first time ever. Cassidy Coolbaugh of Rehoboth Elementary in Rehoboth won second place, and Katie McConomy of Glasgow Christian Academy in Bear captured third place. Each won a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond and a tree planting ceremony at their school.

Delaware's statewide Arbor Day Poster Contest, open to students in grades K to 4, awarded top prize to Grace Winston, a 1st-grader from Winston Learning Academy in Milford who won a \$100 Savings Bond for her entry. Winners were also selected in each county at three levels: Kindergarten, Grades 1-2, and Grades 3-4. Here is the complete list of winners:

2009 Arbor Day Poster Contest Winners

Trees are Terrific...In Cities and Towns!

State Winner – Grace Winston — Winston Learning Academy, Milford

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New Castle County

Kindergarten	Madison Klapinsky— Christ the Teacher, Newark
Grade 1-2	Justin Farraday—Jennie Smith Elementary, Newark
Grade 3-4	Jonathan Huey — Glasgow Christian Academy, Bear

Kent County

Kindergarten	Caleb Stalnaker — Allen Frear Elementary, Camden
Grade 1-2	Riley Tracey — W.B. Simpson, Camden
Grade 3-4	Theresa Outten — Clayton Elementary, Clayton

Sussex County

Kindergarten	Stephen Venable — Honor Academy, Milford
Grade 1-2	Grace Winston— Winston Learning Academy, Milford
Grade 3-4	Daniel Winston — Winston Learning Academy, Milford

State-wide Grade 5

1st (National Representative) Sophia Kottenhahn Leslie — Claymont Elementary, Wilmington

2nd Cassidy Coolbaugh, Rehoboth Elementary, Rehoboth

3rd Katie McCohomy, Glasgow Christian Academy, Bear