



Governor Ted Strickland

American Red Cross
Emergency Management Association of Ohio
National Weather Service
Ohio Citizen Corps
Ohio Department of Aging
Ohio Department of Commerce-State Fire Marshal
Ohio News Network
Ohio Department of Education
Ohio Department of Health
Ohio Department of Insurance
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Ohio Emergency Management Agency
Ohio Insurance Institute

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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August 13, 2007

**FORTY-NINE OHIO STUDENTS RECOGNIZED IN ANNUAL
STATE SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS POSTER CONTEST**

COLUMBUS, OH – Alexa Day, a sixth grader during the 2006-07 school year, attending Heath Middle School in Licking County, was recognized today at the Ohio State Fair as the overall state winner in a statewide poster contest. Alexa’s poster depicted the LIFE board game and illustrated tornado safety and preparedness information. The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness chose her poster as “the most informative, accurate and creative” out of the many posters received as part of its annual Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest.

As the overall state winner, Alexa received a variety of awards and prizes from the committee and its partners, to include a \$100 savings bond, a letter of congratulations from Governor Ted Strickland, a plaque from the National Weather Service, prizes from The Weather Channel, and later in the fall during a special presentation, her school will receive an engraved “traveling” trophy to showcase for the remainder of the school year. In an effort to promote severe weather preparedness, the committee will feature Alexa’s poster throughout the year.

Seven students, one each from first through sixth grades and individualized education classes, were announced as state-level winners and received prizes and awards to include \$50 savings bonds, plaques, personal-sized rain gauges, and a letter of congratulations from the governor. They are: first-grader Alexis Long of Pickaway County; second-grader Emily Notestone of Pickaway County; third-grader Brittney Davis of Columbiana County; fourth-grader Jonathan Natola of Cuyahoga County; fifth-grader Gina Kramer of Mercer County; sixth-grader Mason Thoma of Montgomery County; and sixth-grader Amber Comer of Pickaway County.

This year, a total of 49 students from 25 Ohio counties were honored as regional winners. The students represented grades first through sixth and individualized education classes from 36 schools. As regional winners, every student artist received a certificate from the National Weather Service and a duffel bag of prizes from the offices and their partners that make up the Severe Weather Awareness Committee.

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness has sponsored its annual poster contest since 1977, asking Ohio students to design an informative poster on severe weather safety and preparedness. The efforts of these children help the committee to meet its overall goal – to educate Ohioans about the actions they can take to protect themselves and their families before, during and after severe weather occurs.

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“Teaching Ohioans Severe Weather Safety and Preparedness”

www.weathersafety.ohio.gov

Names of the 49 regional, state and overall state winners (* denotes state winners; ** denotes overall state winner):

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Home County</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Home County</i>
Indiv. Education	Josh Caudill, 5 th Grade Amber Comer, 6 th Gr.*	Pickaway Pickaway			
1 st Grade	Robyn Bores Carter Flood Alanna Gernon Morgan Hubbard Alexis Long * Camryn Nigh Clay Smock Adri Winters	Huron Noble Clark Jackson Pickaway Hancock Ashtabula Scioto	4 th Grade	Kirstyn Baise Emmanuel Calloway Rachel Haddad Hanna Heimberger Gabbie Klejka Jonathan Natola * Nicholas Pelino Alexis Peters Alexis Youngpeter	Clark Cuyahoga Gallia Fairfield Summit Cuyahoga Columbiana Warren Hancock
2 nd Grade	Ashley Bruns Matthew Cherry Alexandra Goddard Emily Notestone * Lauren Price Griffin Rinner Meagan Sclabach Kerra Smith	Mercer Hancock Scioto Pickaway Columbiana Huron Stark Jackson	5 th Grade	Trevor Cope Veronica Iriart Gina Kramer * Steven Nelson Colton Salyers Victoria Wertenbach Sarrah Woodall	Columbiana Summit Mercer Franklin Jackson Ottawa Adams
3 rd Grade	Chase Braun Kelsie Byers Brittney Davis * Ian Pippert Ladd Katie Mohler Brody Thill Ashleigh Vale Jorge Valle	Logan Ross Columbiana Ottawa Jackson Pickaway Stark Cuyahoga	6 th Grade	Brittney Burt Alexa Day ** Brandi Gerschutz Brook Horton Alyssa McIntyre Shai Smith Mason Thoma *	Columbiana Licking Putnam Brown Ashtabula Cuyahoga Montgomery

The state-level winning posters are available to view on the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness Web site: www.weathersafety.ohio.gov.

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