



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
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Ohio Department of Public Safety-Ohio EMA
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THIRTY-SEVEN OHIO STUDENTS RECOGNIZED IN ANNUAL STATE SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS POSTER CONTEST

COLUMBUS, OH – Ivy Nguyen, a sixth grader in Summit County during the 2007-08 school year was recognized Saturday at the Ohio State Fair as the overall state winner in a statewide poster contest. Ivy’s poster artistically illustrated flooding and flood safety and preparedness information. Her message was: *Stay Safe and Sound. Don’t Drown.* The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness chose her poster as “the most informative, accurate and creative out of the many posters received during its annual Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest.

As the overall state winner, Ivy received a variety of awards and prizes from the committee and its partners, to include a \$100 savings bond, a letter of congratulations from Gov. Ted Strickland, a plaque from the National Weather Service, a disaster supply carrying case from The Weather Channel, and later in the fall, 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 Ivy’s poster throughout the year.

Seven students, one from first through sixth grades and individualized instruction classes, were announced as state-level winners and received prizes and awards to include \$50 savings bonds, plaques, personal-sized rain gauges, smoke detectors and a letter of congratulations from Gov. Strickland. They are: first-grader Matthew Berning of Mercer County; second-grader Alexis Long of Pickaway County; third-grader Garrett Mitchel of Pickaway County; fourth-grader Veronica Roberts of Coshocton County; fifth-grader Andrew Dresbach of Pickaway County; fifth-grader Maddie Rotunda of Summit County; and sixth-grader Jessy Thomas of Pickaway County.

This year, a total of 37 students from 15 Ohio counties were honored as regional winners. The students represented grades 1-6 from 18 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 Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness.

For 30 years, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness has conducted its annual poster contest. And for 30 years, students have designed informative posters on severe weather safety and preparedness. The efforts of these students have helped the committee meet its overall goal – to educate Ohioans about the actions they can take to protect themselves and others before, during and after severe weather occurs.

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Names of the 37 regional, state and overall state winners

(*) Denotes state winners

(**) Denotes the overall state winner

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Home County</i>		<i>Grade</i>	<i>Students</i>	<i>Home County</i>
Indiv Inst	Andrew Dresbach * 5 th Grade	Pickaway				
1 st Grade	Matthew Berning * Shania McIntosh Brittany Taylor Joey Venter	Mercer Mahoning Jackson Cuyahoga		4 th Grade	Shannon Bertke Beth Davis Alexis Davis Ashleah Jacobs Veronica Roberts* Nathan Shreffler Dylan Strickland Ashleigh Vale	Mercer Pickaway Seneca Richland Coshocton Adams Jackson Stark
2 nd Grade	Kazimir Klein Alexis Long * Alex Legyel Caroline Pier Lauren Sanders Mariah Smith	Cuyahoga Pickaway Jefferson Summit Mercer Jackson		5 th Grade	Marie Darnell Darby Fogler Sydney Morgan Maddie Rotunda* John Tsatalis Spencer Williams	Scioto Pickaway Jackson Summit Montgomery Cuyahoga
3 rd Grade	Carlee Dempsey Emily Erhart Julia Hartnett Matthew Kahlig Garrett Mitchel * Allexis Spencer Maddie Toole	Jackson Richland Stark Mercer Pickaway Jefferson Adams		6 th Grade	Collin Gilbert Gina Kramer James Mohr Ivy Nguygen ** Jessy Thomas *	Columbiana Mercer Scioto Summit Pickaway

All posters are available to view on the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness Web site: www.weathersafety.ohio.gov.

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