



American Red Cross  
National Weather Service  
Ohio Department of Aging  
Ohio Department of Education  
Ohio Department of Health  
Ohio Department of Insurance

Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Ohio Emergency Management Agency  
Emergency Management Association of Ohio  
Ohio Insurance Institute  
Ohio News Network  
Division of the State Fire Marshal

**Bob Taft, Governor of Ohio**

---

Contact C.J. Couch, Ohio EMA at 614-799-3695

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **FIFTY-ONE OHIO YOUTH WINNERS RECOGNIZED IN ANNUAL STATE SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS POSTER CONTEST**

**COLUMBUS, OH** (August 13, 2005) – Katie Fernstrom, a fifth grader during the 2004-05 school year from Canfield Middle School (Mahoning County) was recognized today at the Ohio State Fair as the overall state winner in a statewide poster contest. Katie’s poster was chosen as “the most informative, accurate and creative” out of many posters received by the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, as part of its annual Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest.

As the overall state winner, Katie received several prizes, to include a \$100 savings bond, a tone-alert NOAA Weather Radio, sponsored T-shirts, an ONN hat, activity books, personal-sized rain gauge, gift items from The Weather Channel, a letter of congratulations from Governor Bob Taft, a personal engraved trophy, and a traveling trophy to showcase at her school. Katie and her school will receive the traveling trophy during a special ceremony in the fall.

A total of 51 students from 26 Ohio counties were honored as regional winners. The students represented grades first through sixth and special education. As regional winners, every student received a duffel bag of prizes to include: flashlights, key chains, disaster preparedness info wheels, pens, notepads and activity books from the offices that make up the Severe Weather Awareness Committee.

Seven students received plaques, personal-sized rain gauges, tone-alert NOAA Weather Radios, Ohio News Network T-shirts and ball caps, Ohio Insurance Institute T-shirts, various other prizes, a congratulatory letter from the Governor, and \$50 savings bonds as state level winners for their grades. They are: first grader Haleigh McCormick of Adams County; second grader Sarah Raquet of Lake County; third grader Jessy Thomas of Pickaway County; third grader Alexis Speakman of Pickaway County; fourth grader Olivia Musci of Summit County; fifth grader MaKenzie Davidson of Pickaway County; and sixth grader Katie Weger of Allen County.

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness has sponsored a statewide severe weather safety poster contest since 1977, annually asking for students in first through sixth grade and special education to design a poster with a severe weather safety message. The efforts of children such as these help the committee meet its overall goal - to educate Ohioans about actions they can take to protect themselves and their families before, during and after severe weather.

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness is comprised of representatives from the Ohio departments of Aging, Education, Insurance, Natural Resources, Ohio Emergency Management Agency, Ohio Insurance Institute, National Weather Service, American Red Cross, Ohio News Network and the Emergency Management Association of Ohio.

-more-

---

“Teaching Ohioans Severe Weather Safety and Preparedness”

[www.ema.ohio.gov/Weather.htm](http://www.ema.ohio.gov/Weather.htm)

Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness

Page 2 of 2

The names of the 51 students who received recognition as regional, state and overall winners are:

Grade Level	Student's Name	Residing County
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Nyree Chupp Kiana Curtiss Marta Fratzcak Haleigh McCormick Jayson Nowak Megan Pennington	Wayne Seneca Stark Adams Paulding Clark
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Marissa Brubaker Weston Chupp Sole Dominguez Jackson Long Sara Long Nicholas Pelino Sarah Raquet Brittany Spratt	Wood Wayne Allen Darke Fairfield Columbiana Lake Adams
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Jenna Bryden Sarah Cash Alexis Moore Nikki Moore Madison Poling Mikayla Rauch Kristen Schneider Alexis Speakman Jessy Thomas	Crawford Trumbull Coshocton Adams Paulding Mercer Richland Pickaway Pickaway
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Saja Abid Ashton Clarke Chelsey Dennis Kayla Felix Joshua Lawrence Morgan Liedtke Bethann Lumbrezer Carmen Meyer Olivia Musci	Cuyahoga Coshocton Fairfield Warren Seneca Washington Fulton Mercer Summit
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Taylor Chamberlain Harley Chaney MaKenzie Davidson Katie Fernstrom Amber Koepnick Alisha Laferty Sylvionme Likowski Ashley Tyson Samantha Williams	Columbiana Warren Pickaway Mahoning Clark Seneca Medina Washington Allen
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Mitchel Barth Chelsea Beegan Tiffany Clifford Arielle Ginsberg Allison Huffman Holly King Stevie McCall Nick Perry Casey Schmidt Katie Weger	Washington Scioto Montgomery Cuyahoga Seneca Pickaway Columbiana Mahoning Paulding Allen

The state-level winning posters are available to view on the Ohio EMA web site: [www.ema.ohio.gov](http://www.ema.ohio.gov). Click on "Severe Weather Awareness" located to the right, under "Quick Links."

###