



Governor John R. Kasich

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 Department of Education
Ohio Department of Health

Ohio Department of Insurance
Ohio Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Ohio Department of Public Safety - Ohio EMA
Ohio Department of Transportation
Ohio Insurance Institute
WBNS – 10TV
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

COLUMBUS, OH – Grace Draeger, a fourth grader in Sandusky County during the 2015-2016 school year, was recognized Saturday at the Ohio State Fair as the overall state winner in a statewide poster contest. Grace's poster on tornado safety illustrates in water colors a massive tornado with the main message: *When the tornado siren whines, Eyes to the sky and look for signs!*

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness chose Grace's 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, Grace received a variety of awards and prizes from the committee and its partners, to include a check to go toward a \$100 U.S. Treasury Direct savings bond, a letter of congratulations from Governor John R. Kasich, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, a smoke detector, a personalized trophy, a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) backpack and disaster supply kit, and a host of other prizes. 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 Grace's poster throughout the year.

Six students, one from first through sixth grades, were announced as state-level winners and received prizes and awards, including checks to go toward \$50 savings bonds, NOAA Weather Radios, smoke detectors and letters of congratulations from Gov. Kasich. They are: 1st Grader Luke Long from Pickaway County; 2nd Grader Julia Arnold from Summit County; 3rd Grader Elizabeth Nester from Summit County; 4th Grader Brayden Wical from Fairfield County; 5th Grader Andrew Siefker from Summit County; and 6th Grader Clara Hoffert from Summit County.

This year, a total of 38 students from 20 Ohio counties were honored as regional winners. The students represented grades 1-6 from 24 schools. As regional winners, every student artist received a certificate from the National Weather Service and sling backpacks full of prizes from the offices and their partners that make up the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness.

"Teaching Ohioans Severe Weather Safety and Preparedness"

www.weathersafety.ohio.gov

Since 1978, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness has conducted its annual poster contest. Since its inception, 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.

Names of the 36 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>
1 st Grade	Zella Bunch Luke Long* Myriah Manz Angel Merrill Alexxis Schmitt	Lorain Pickaway Paulding Butler Summit	4 th Grade	Adalyn Byrd Kylie Dennewitz Grace Draeger** Jeff Esser Caelan Stefancik Allyssa Wagner Brayden Wical*	Mercer Scioto Sandusky Erie Summit Henry Fairfield
2 nd Grade	Julia Arnold* Brooke Bellow Natalie Bowman Ella Hughes Lauren Lavelle Miranda Snyder	Summit Ross Hamilton Paulding Cuyahoga Carroll	5 th Grade	Maggie Cox Lanie Hinton Maddie Marshall Alexandria Rush Lance Schulteis Andrew Siefker*	Paulding Hamilton Fairfield Richland Greene Summit
3 rd Grade	Bryton Carruthers Storm Johnson Connor Miller Elizabeth Nester* Dominic Sheridan Blayze Vance Addie West	Fairfield Carroll Mercer Summit Stark Paulding Scioto	6 th Grade	Clara Hoffert* Anyanka Huffman Mary Lepore Natalie Meade Lauren Mestemaker Grady Vogel Gary Zheng	Summit Seneca Lorain Fairfield Darke Paulding Scioto

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

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