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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.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Home County</th>
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| 1st Grade | Zella Bunch  
Luke Long*  
Myrriah Manz  
Angel Merrill  
Alexxis Schmitt | Lorain  
Pickaway  
Paulding  
Butler  
Summit |
| 4th Grade | Adalyn Byrd  
Kylie Dennewitz  
Grace Draeger**  
Jeff Esser  
Caelan Stefancik  
Allyssa Wagner  
Brayden Wical* | Mercer  
Scioto  
Sandusky  
Erie  
Summit  
Henry  
Fairfield |
| 2nd Grade | Julia Arnold*  
Brooke Bellow  
Natalie Bowman  
Ella Hughes  
Lauren Lavelle  
Miranda Snyder | Summit  
Ross  
Hamilton  
Paulding  
Cuyahoga  
Carroll |
| 5th Grade | Maggie Cox  
Lanie Hinton  
Maddie Marshall  
Alexandria Rush  
Lance Schulteis  
Andrew Siefker* | Paulding  
Hamilton  
Fairfield  
Richland  
Greene  
Summit |
| 3rd Grade | Bryton Carruthers  
Storm Johnson  
Connor Miller  
Elizabeth Nester*  
Dominic Sheridan  
Blayze Vance  
Addie West | Fairfield  
Carroll  
Mercer  
Summit  
Stark  
Paulding  
Scioto |
| 6th 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](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov).

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