



November, 2010

Dear 5th Grade & Art Teachers:

Please join us for the NEW 2011 *Oklahoma Arbor Week Poster Contest*, celebrating trees and promoting sun safety in Oklahoma! The contest is designed to increase students' awareness of the importance of trees in their lives, encourage safe personal habits while engaging in activities outdoors and promote celebrations during Oklahoma's Arbor Week, March 20-26, 2011. The curriculum materials are adapted from EPA's SunWise program [www.epa.gov/sunwise](http://www.epa.gov/sunwise). Oklahoma Forestry Services, Oklahoma Department of Health and the Oklahoma Urban and Community Forestry Council sponsor this new state contest.

### SHADY SCHOOLS ARE COOL!

"Shady Schools are Cool!" is the contest theme for 2011. The EPA activity "*Map a SunWise Schoolyard*", and all other contest support materials, is available from the OK Forestry Services website, [www.forestry.ok.gov](http://www.forestry.ok.gov) and offers fun ways for students to explore the shade benefits of school trees and leads them through the design of a schoolyard that provides adequate sun safety opportunities during outdoor activities. Posters should reflect an understanding of the materials presented in this activity. An opportunity for open online judging to select the top 3 state winners will be available February 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> at [www.forestry.ok.gov](http://www.forestry.ok.gov)

### ELIGIBILITY

All fifth grade level students are eligible. A student may only enter the contest once. Students need not enter as part of a regular school classroom. Scout groups, home school associations, etc. are all invited to enter. Please submit only the school or organizational winner to the state level judging.

### TO ENTER (PLEASE read this section carefully)

Encourage your fifth graders to design posters that fit the theme "Shady Schools are Cool!" and that include elements from the SunWise activity. ***The theme must be written, exactly, on the poster!*** Posters **must** be 11"x17" and must include the official entry form attached to the back of your school or organization entry. Posters must be reproducible (clear, vivid colors) and **signed** in the lower right corner by the student. Check spelling and make sure lettering is legible from several steps away!

### CHOOSING THE WINNERS

Select local judges to vote for **one** school or organization winner. The poster that wins your local contest must be **received** at the OK Forestry Services office **by 5:00 pm February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011**. Our state winners will be selected from the individual school winners. First, second and third place prizes will be awarded at the state level. The students' artwork will be printed as a poster or bookmark and these will be distributed statewide prior to Oklahoma's Arbor Week in March of 2011.

### PRIZES FOR TEACHERS

**\$50 gift certificates** for classroom materials will be given to the teachers of the first, second and third place winners in Oklahoma. The first, second and third place winners' school libraries will each receive a copy of the reference book **Forest Trees of Oklahoma**.

### PRIZES FOR STUDENTS

Oklahoma's first, second and third place students will receive a US savings bond and a framed copy of his or her winning poster. Winners will also each receive a tree planting event at their school to promote shade trees on playgrounds. State level entries will also be used by cooperating agencies as a traveling exhibit promoting sun safety, skin cancer awareness and Oklahoma Arbor Week.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may announce your school winner at any time. OK Forestry Services will announce the state winner in mid February. We're looking forward to seeing your students' creative artwork! I am excited about the opportunity this contest provides Oklahoma's fifth graders to foster an understanding of the importance of caring for our environment and being SunWise!

Sincerely,



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