



707 North Robinson, P.O. Box 1677, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101-1677

## News Release

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Contact: Monty Elder, (405) 702-1017

### DEQ Announces 2006 Trash Poster Contest

“Just Say Neigh to Litter” is the slogan on one of the winners in the 2005 Trash Poster Contest. Deadline for entries in the 2006 contest is February 1 and students in Kindergarten through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to showcase their creative talent by entering.

In 2005 more than 13,675 entries were received in the statewide Trash Poster competition. The annual contest is a partnership of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), Keep Oklahoma Beautiful (KOB), the Department of Education and the Cherokee Nation.

The contest encourages students to learn about Oklahoma's litter and solid waste issues and then propose solutions through art. Two posters from the 2005 contest have been printed in enlarged format plus the ever popular Trash Poster Contest calendar is now available.

The contest is divided into categories by grade: K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. DEQ coordinates county-level judging through its local offices. County winners will receive certificates and participate in the state-level competition.

The 12 state winners will receive cash prizes, including \$250 for first place, \$150 for second place and \$100 for third place in each of the four divisions. They also will receive mounted copies of their posters and T-shirts printed with their designs. The state winners of the fifteenth annual contest, their families and teachers will be invited to an awards luncheon in April, and the students will be introduced on the floor of the House of Representatives at the State Capitol.

State winners' entries will be featured in the 2007 Trash Poster Calendar. Also, one selected winning entry will be mass-produced as a poster and distributed to schools, libraries and the public. Teachers of the 12 state winners will receive a two-night stay at an Oklahoma state park and art supplies.

Entries must be received at the local DEQ Office by **February 1, 2006**. County judging and awards will take place during February, and local winners will be forwarded to the state competition in March. After the statewide posters have been judged, copies will be available to other businesses and groups for display and promotion.

Entries must be original concepts with positive themes related to litter and solid waste, and must be 11 " x 17" on paper or poster board. Syndicated characters and computer-generated images *cannot* be used.

Sponsors include DEQ, OGE Energy Corporation, the Metropolitan Environmental Trust (M.e.t.), Waste Research, Inc., Oklahoma Chapter Sierra Club, Oklahoma State Parks and Resorts, Oklahoma Rural Water Association, Triangle A & E, Mardel' s, Keep Oklahoma Beautiful and the Cherokee Nation.

For more information and entry forms, contact your local DEQ Office or the ODOT Beautification Office at (405) 521-4037, or access the ODOT website at [www.okladot.state.ok.us](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us) and click on Beautification.

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