

**Governor Ted Strickland**



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 News Network

Ohio Department of Education  
Ohio Department of Health  
Ohio Department of Insurance  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Ohio Department of Public Safety-Ohio EMA  
Ohio Insurance Institute

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FORTY-NINE OHIO STUDENTS RECOGNIZED IN ANNUAL  
STATE SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS POSTER CONTEST**

COLUMBUS, OH – Sydney Michael, a fourth grader in Adams County during the 2008-09 school year was recognized Saturday at the Ohio State Fair as the overall state winner in a statewide poster contest. Sydney’s poster artistically illustrated tornado safety and preparedness information. The safety message was “Don’t Monkey Around with Tornadoes!” The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness chose Sydney’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, Sydney received a variety of awards and prizes from the committee and its partners, to include a \$100 savings bond, a letter of congratulations from Gov. Ted Strickland, a plaque from the National Weather Service, a t-shirt and thermos from Ohio News Network, a personalized trophy, and 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 Sydney’s poster throughout the year.

Seven students, one from first through sixth grades and individualized instruction classes, were announced as state-level winners and received prizes and awards to include \$50 savings bonds, plaques, personal-sized rain gauges, smoke detectors and a letter of congratulations from Gov. Strickland. They are: first-grader Connor Galloway of Pike County; second-grader Michael Adams of Geauga County; third-grader Kaitlin Hartman of Pickaway County; fourth-grader Rachel Jenkins of Miami County; fifth-grader Kristen Deal of Wood County; sixth-grader Darby Fogler of Pickaway County; and sixth-grader Alex Price of Montgomery County.

This year, a total of 49 students from 29 Ohio counties were honored as regional winners. The students represented grades 1-6 from 33 schools. As regional winners, every student artist received a certificate from the National Weather Service and a sling backpack full of prizes from the offices and their partners that make up the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness.

For more than 30 years, 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.

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“Teaching Ohioans Severe Weather Safety and Preparedness”

[www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov)

Names of the 49 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>
Indiv Inst	Darby Fogler * 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Pickaway				
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Courtney Beckley Allison Dewees Connor Galloway * Curtis Hurt, Jr. Ben Janita Jalyssa Mahle Miquela Mundy Katie Vaughn	Tuscarawas Medina Pike Montgomery Perry Mahoning Seneca Madison		4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Alexandra Banks Aidan Hatcher Rachel Jenkins * Jasmen Little Korbyn Martin Sydney Michael** Sherry Purpura Shannon Regula	Crawford Franklin Miami Mahoning Defiance Adams Cuyahoga Tuscarawas
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	Michael Adams * Brianna Brown Baeli Garner Emily Heath Krista McGee Michaela O'Hara Erin Spangenberg Curtis Young	Geauga Tuscarawas Warren Perry Auglaize Lorain Wood Fairfield		5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Kristen Deal * Andrew Guillaume Sarah Mattison Nicole Naporano Sarah Obradovich Emily Rowley Haleigh Staugler Andrew Svente	Wood Williams Tuscarawas Franklin Mahoning Highland Mercer Lorain
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Hannah Bowen Ben Flecha Kaitlin Hartman * Chayce Hayman Juliette Hooper Isaac Massie Jared Orth Lydia Truitt Brittany Whitehair	Perry Cuyahoga Pickaway Logan Stark Lawrence Wood Adams Tuscarawas		6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	McKenzie Brizes Nora Kinder Kyle Kozlaker Alex Price * Brittany Spratt Joshua Thomas Jillian Timko	Lake Williams Lucas Montgomery Adams Pickaway Cuyahoga

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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