

NEWS RELEASE

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> Save the Redwoods League Announces 2012 Art Contest Winners ---Winners from across the U.S.: from Suwanee, Georgia to Buena Park, California

SAN FRANCISCO (November 15, 2012) – <u>Save the Redwoods League</u>, the only nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting ancient redwood forests throughout their natural range, today announced the winners of the 2012 Art Contest for kids. Twelve children from throughout the United States won honors and more in the League's "Find Me in the Redwoods" Art Contest. The art contest was designed to raise awareness of and encourage visits to redwood forests in California by asking students across the country to create and submit a drawing, painting or sketch of themselves in the redwoods. The League received over a thousand entries.

K-12 students created works of art showing how they see the redwood forests as a place to play, learn, and explore nature. Many students included notes describing in their own words why everyone should care about the redwoods. "We are thrilled by the overwhelming response we received from students across the nation, and the interest from young artists helping to protect redwood forests," said Jennifer Benito, outreach director of Save the Redwoods League. "We look forward to sharing the artwork with our colleague Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. I know he will enjoy them as much as we have."

Students who participated in the "Find Me in the Redwoods" contest were divided into the following three grade categories: K-3, 4-8 and 9-12. To view winning entries, please visit the League's website, <u>SaveTheRedwoods.org/ArtContest</u>. All entries will be mailed to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. The winning entries have been made into free ecards. Send ecards to friends, family and colleagues at <u>SaveTheRedwoods.org/ArtContest</u>.

The "Find Me in the Redwoods" Art Contest Winners

Grades K-3

- First Place: Andrew, Sharon Elementary, Suwanee, Georgia
- Second Place: Rachel, Metuchen Christian Academy, Edison, New Jersey
- Third Place: Victoria, Bowne-Munro Elementary, East Brunswick, New Jersey
- Honorable Mention: Thomas, Virginia Smith Elementary, Newalla, Oklahoma

Grades 4-8

- First Place: Julia, John Adams Middle School, Edison, New Jersey
- Second Place: Jessica, Robert C. Fisler Elementary, Fullerton, California
- Third Place: Soohyun, Walker Junior High School, Buena Park, California
- Honorable Mention: Dana, Frost Elementary School, San Jose, California

Grades 9-12

- First Place: Emily, Gretchen Whitney High School, Cerritos, California
- Second Place: Andrew, Lowell High School, San Francisco, California
- Third Place: Yu Bi, Lowell High School, San Francisco, California
- Honorable Mention: Qing Qing, Lowell High School, San Francisco, California

Contest prizes were generously donated by <u>Roaring Camp Railroads</u>, <u>Sequoia Park Zoo</u>, <u>Redwoods & Rivers</u> <u>Rafting</u>, <u>Mount Hermon Redwood Canopy Tours</u>, <u>Sonoma Canopy Tours</u>, <u>the Skunk Train</u>, <u>Cavallo Point</u> <u>Lodge at the Golden Gate</u>, <u>Balloons Above the Valley</u>, <u>REI</u>, and <u>FolkManis Puppets</u>.

About Save the Redwoods League

Walk through a redwood forest—home of the tallest, largest, and some of the oldest living beings on Earth—and you can't help but feel an overwhelming sense of awe and peace among these magnificent giants. Since 1918, Save the Redwoods League has led the effort to protect the coast redwoods and giant sequoias for all to experience and enjoy. To date the League has completed the purchase of more than 190,000 acres of redwood forest and associated land. For more information, please visit SaveTheRedwoods.org, or to receive monthly email updates, sign up at SaveTheRedwoods.org.

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