

# **OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, AND FORESTRY**

2800 N. Lincoln Boulevard Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4912

**PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 13, 2015

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## **Arbor Week poster contest underway**

Oklahoma Forestry Services invites third through fifth-grade classes across the state to participate in its annual Arbor Week poster contest, giving students the opportunity to utilize their creativity, while learning about the importance of trees. Working with the theme “Trees are Terrific ... Inside and Out,” students have until December 11<sup>th</sup> to submit their posters.

“Not only is this a fun way to get students interested in trees, but the Arbor Day Foundation is providing high quality teaching resources for our state educators,” said State Forester George Geissler. “I would encourage teachers to take advantage of this great opportunity to engage their students with nature.”

The National Arbor Day Foundation provides a curriculum for educators, based on the contest theme. Educators utilize the curriculum to teach students about the important parts of the tree and how they function to help the tree live and grow. Students then create their posters based on what they have learned about trees.

The finalists for each grade will receive a pizza party for their class. The first, second and third place overall winners of the competition will receive a number of prizes including cash prizes, recognition at the Arbor Week Kickoff Luncheon in March in Oklahoma City and gift cards for their teachers. The overall first place winner will additionally have his or her poster professionally printed for distribution to schools and Arbor Week Celebrations throughout the state and the winner’s school will receive a tree to plant on school grounds.

Oklahoma Forestry Services, a division of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, is teaming up with the Oklahoma Urban and Community Forestry Council and the USDA Forest Service to sponsor the contest and increase awareness about trees.

For more information contact Jeri Irby at [jeri.irby@ag.ok.gov](mailto:jeri.irby@ag.ok.gov) or (405) 522-6158 or visit <http://www.forestry.ok.gov/2016-arbor-week-poster-contest>.

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### **About Oklahoma Forestry Services**

Oklahoma Forestry Services, a division of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry, is committed to conserving, enhancing and protecting Oklahoma's 12.5 million acres of forests and woodlands. Since 1925, Oklahoma Forestry Services has worked with individuals and communities throughout the state to create resilient landscapes, fire-adaptive communities and provide wildfire response. Headquartered in Oklahoma City, the division also has regional offices in Goldsby, Broken Bow, Wilburton and Tahlequah. For more information, visit <http://www.forestry.ok.gov>.