



Governor John R. Kasich

American Red Cross	Ohio Department of Insurance
Emergency Management Association of Ohio	Ohio Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services
National Weather Service	Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Ohio Citizen Corps	Ohio Department of Public Safety - Ohio EMA
Ohio Department of Aging	Ohio Department of Transportation
Ohio Department of Commerce-State Fire Marshal	Ohio Insurance Institute
Ohio Department of Education	Ohio Silver Jackets
Ohio Department of Health	WCMH – NBC4

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 4, 2018

Contact Kelli Blackwell, Ohio EMA, at (614) 799-3694

**THIRTY-FOUR OHIO STUDENTS RECOGNIZED IN ANNUAL
STATE SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS POSTER CONTEST**

COLUMBUS, OH – Addisyn Spencer, a second-grader in Cuyahoga County during the 2017-2018 school year, was recognized Saturday at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy, next to the Ohio State Fair, as the overall state winner in a statewide poster contest. Addisyn's poster on flood safety illustrates two people in a lifeboat with the message: *FLOOD SAFETY – If you're in distress, wear a life vest! SOS!*

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness chose Addisyn'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, Addisyn received a variety of awards and prizes from the committee and its partners, to include a check to go toward a \$100 U.S. Treasury Direct savings bond, a letter of congratulations from Governor John R. Kasich, a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio, a smoke detector, a personalized trophy, a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) backpack and disaster supply kit, and a host of other prizes. 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 Addisyn's poster throughout the year.

Six students, one from first through sixth grades, were announced as state-level winners and received prizes and awards, including checks to go toward \$50 savings bonds, NOAA Weather Radios, smoke detectors and letters of congratulations from Gov. Kasich. They are: 1st Grader Vanshika Rajarapu of Wayne County; 2nd Grader Lane Paxson of Allen County; 3rd Grader Eden Dwier of Wayne County; 4th Grader Sarah Patchell of Brown County; 5th Grader Luke Stouffer of Paulding County; and 6th Grader Grace Draeger of Sandusky County.

This year, a total of 34 students from 18 Ohio counties were honored as regional winners. The students represented grades 1-6 from 20 schools. As regional winners, every student artist received a certificate from the National Weather Service and backpacks full of prizes from the offices and their partners that make up the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness.

-more-

"Teaching Ohioans Severe Weather Safety and Preparedness"

www.weathersafety.ohio.gov

Since 1978, 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.

Names of the 38 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>
1 st Grade	Colt Cross Vanshika Rajarapu*	Jackson Wayne		4 th Grade	Zoe Browning Isabelle Dennis Maria Franks Justice Healy Gaurinanda S. Lekshmi Ava Moore Sarah Patchell* Elias Wright	Muskingum Portage Wayne Henry Franklin Jackson Brown Ottawa
2 nd Grade	Lane Paxson* Zarek Ruiz Yzabella Smith Addisyn Spencer**	Allen Franklin Jackson Cuyahoga		5 th Grade	Divyagna Abburi Kyra Dansby Jake Hollingstead Kaylee Houghtlen Brooke Lansing Dominic Sheridan Luke Stouffer* Luciana Vigliotti	Franklin Muskingum Jackson Huron Scioto Stark Paulding Mahoning
3 rd Grade	Abigail Cain Carter Chupka Eden Dwier* James McDaniel Elise Tracy	Muskingum Licking Wayne Jackson Brown		6 th Grade	Grace Draeger* Jazmin K. Eckert Helen Faur Camaya Lee Ishara Mason Clarke McGaughey Mikayla McInnes	Sandusky Jackson Mahoning Muskingum Paulding Pike Stark

All posters will be available to view on the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness Web site: www.weathersafety.ohio.gov.

###