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DHS invites elementary students to enter Clean Beaches Art Contest

Oregon fourth- and fifth-grade students are being invited to compete in the fourth annual Clean Beaches Art Contest.

The contest is open to fourth- and fifth-graders from all areas of the state.

Deadline for entries is May 15.

The first place winner will receive a small prize and have his or her artwork posted on the Web site of the Oregon Beach Monitoring Program, the contest sponsor. The winning artist's teacher will receive a \$100 gift certificate to purchase science and environmental education resources for use in the classroom. The prizes are paid for by the federally funded beach program.

"The goal is to raise awareness about the importance of protecting our beaches and ocean waters," said Jennifer Ketterman, beach monitoring program coordinator in the Oregon Department of Human Services. "There are things we can all do to help make sure they are healthy places to play and swim,"

To be eligible, entries must:

- Be original works of art that convey the clean beaches theme, show imagination and creativity, and have a descriptive title or caption attached;
- Be created on plain white paper no larger than 11 inches by 17 inches;
- Have a completed entry form attached to the back of the artwork; and
- Be received by May 15.

Contest details and entry forms are available on the Web at <http://oregon.gov/DHS/ph/beaches/artcontest.shtml> or can be obtained by calling

Jennifer Ketterman at 971-673-0431. The 2008 winner was Payton Smith, a fifth-grader at the Lighthouse School in North Bend. The federally funded Oregon Beach Monitoring Program monitors the waters along Oregon's coastline for the presence of fecal bacteria, and reports elevated levels to the public.