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Dear fifth-grade teacher,

The West Virginia Division of Forestry and the National Arbor Day Foundation are calling on you to showcase your students' artistic talents by participating in the 2010 West Virginia Arbor Day Poster Contest. This year's theme is *"Trees are Terrific. . . and Energy Wise!"*

West Virginia's first-place poster will automatically be a finalist in the national competition, and the artist will receive a \$100 U. S. Savings Bond from the West Virginia Forestry Association and have a tree planted in his or her honor at the school. The Oakland Foundation again is providing a \$500 grant toward the purchase of art supplies. The school of the state's first-place winner receives a check for \$200; the schools of the second-place and third-place winners each receive a check for \$150.

How can you get your students involved in this exciting contest? Simply contact me, Andy Sheetz, at andy.i.sheetz@wv.gov or (304) 558-2788, for an activity packet that contains educational activities that correlate with National Art, Math, Science and Social Studies Standards. The contest materials are also available for downloading at www.wvforestry.com click on <http://www.wvforestry.com/arbor.cfm> . The contest is open to public, private and home schooling teachers in the Mountain State.

The deadline for all contest submissions is March 1, 2010. Only posters that meet the contest rules will be eligible for prizes. Please read the poster contest rules on page 23 in the activity guide carefully to make sure your students meet eligibility requirements.

To see last year's winning posters, visit the Division of Forestry's web site at www.wvforestry.com, under the Urban Forestry section. To view national contest posters visit the Poster Contest section of www.arborday.org.

Thank you in advance for participating in 2010 West Virginia Arbor Day Poster Contest. Don't hesitate to contact me for more information.

Sincerely Yours,

Andy Sheetz,
Partnership Coordinator

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