



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT & COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

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Agency Website: www.willcountyhealth.org

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WILL COUNTY STUDENTS DISPLAY THEIR REASONS TO BE TOBACCO-FREE IN COUNTY TAR WARS POSTER CONTEST

JOLIET - Karina Ritter, a fourth-grade student from Troy Craughwell in Joliet, won the 2011 Will County Tar Wars Poster Contest March 24.

An annual event hosted by the Will County Health Department, the Tar Wars Poster Contest helps children to recognize the importance of not using tobacco. The 2011 Tar Wars winner was judged to be most outstanding from among more than 70 posters submitted for consideration.

Ritter receives a \$75 Wal-Mart Gift Card for submitting the winning poster. The top eight Will County poster submissions advance to the Illinois State Tar Wars Poster Contest in early May. The Illinois state winner advances to the national contest finals during July, in Washington D.C.

Tar Wars is a free tobacco prevention program developed by the American Academy of Family Physicians, and introduced to Will County schools in 2007. Will County Tobacco Control & Prevention has presented the program to more than 8,000 area grade schoolers. This year, Will County has teamed up with Lewis University College of Nursing to reach more Will County schools. Presentations emphasize the short-term, image-based consequences of tobacco use, costs associated with using tobacco products, and the advertising techniques used by tobacco companies to market harmful products to youth. After students participate in a Tar Wars presentation, they are eligible to create a poster and submit for the poster contest.

Will County Executive Larry Walsh and 52 Health Department employees and volunteers served as Tar Wars judges. Posters were judged on creativity, originality, artistic ability, and the creation of a clear and positive tobacco-free message. Students recognized for runner-up and honorable mention poster submissions received prizes and certificates of participation.



County Executive, Larry Walsh is holding up his favorite poster.

For more information about Tar Wars, visit www.tarwars.org, or telephone Will County Tobacco Control & Prevention at 815-774-7312.



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Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Runners-up: Second Place: Catherine Jones; Spencer Crossing (New Lenox), Third Place: Sara Loichinger; Oaster-Oakview School (New Lenox), Fourth Place: Paola Pation; Lynne Thigpen Elementary (Joliet), Fifth Place: Nora Dennelly; Spencer Crossing, Sixth Place: Kate Wagner; Spencer Crossing, Seventh Place: Andriana Culafic; Ludwig School (Lockport), Eighth Place: Abby Miller; Spencer Crossing.

Honorable Mentions: Sally Dick; Saint Dennis (Lockport), Madison Boykin; Farragut Elementary (Joliet), Kate White; Spencer Crossing, Sean Dennelly; Spencer Crossing, Sarah Noone; St. Mary School (Mokena), Tom Regganie; Troy Craughwell, Maggie Sychowski; Pioneer Elementary (Bolingbrook), Jennifer Duarte; Farragut Elementary (Joliet), Maggie Goldrick; Beecher Elementary, Alec Campbell; Lynne Thigpen Elementary, Audrey Collofello; Saint Mary Nativity (Joliet), Michael Benson; Farragut Elementary.

1st Place Poster:



****Pictures of other posters are available upon request.*