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NEWS

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Note to Editors: At 9:15 a.m. on Tuesday, April 22, representatives from the Colorado State Forest Service and the Colorado Tree Coalition will reveal the name of Colorado's 2008 National Arbor Day Poster Contest winner at an award ceremony at Laura Ingalls-Wilder Elementary School in Littleton. Teachers, parents and the school principal will make remarks about the winner, followed by a brief educational activity pertaining to National Arbor Day.

LITTLETON STUDENT IS COLORADO'S 2008 NATIONAL ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST WINNER

LITTLETON, Colo. — Sydney Lackey, daughter of Richard and Paige Lackey and a student in Devon Reinert's 5th grade class at Laura Ingalls-Wilder Elementary School in Littleton, is the 2007 Colorado state winner of the National Arbor Day Poster Contest. Representatives from the Colorado State Forest Service and Colorado Tree Coalition recognized Lackey for her winning poster at a surprise announcement during an Arbor Day/Earth Day 5th Grade school assembly on Tuesday, April 22.

The state contest is part of an annual program sponsored by the National Arbor Day Foundation and coordinated by the Colorado Tree Coalition. The theme of this year's contest was *Trees are Terrific...inside and out!* The National Arbor Day Foundation will announce the national poster contest winner on April 25 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Chosen from more than 1,700 posters created by 5th graders throughout Colorado, Lackey's poster depicts a looking out the window at a little girl sitting under the shade of a tree with an apple in her hand.

Lackey's poster, accompanied by the other 53 posters forwarded by Colorado teachers for the competition, will be on display at the Colorado Capitol from April 28 - May 8. They also will be on display prior to this at the Bear Creek Nature Center, Colorado Springs, from through April 24th.

During a recognition ceremony at the Colorado Capitol on May 5, Lackey will present a framed print of her poster to Littleton Rep. Joe Rice, Colorado Representative and Colorado Sen. Steve Ward. Following the presentation of the posters, Rep. Rice will recognize Sydney and her family before the House Assembly convenes.

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Dignitaries from the Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC); Ralph Campbell, CTC board member and community forestry division supervisor, Colorado State Forest Service; Donna Davis, state poster contest coordinator, Colorado Tree Coalition; and family and friends also will be present for the ceremony and will accompany Lackey on a tour of the Capitol.

In addition, as the teacher of the winning student, Reinert will receive educational prizes from Toyota, the National Arbor Day Foundation, and the Colorado Tree Coalition. Teachers of all 54 school winners also will receive books, tree cards and bookmarks from the National Arbor Day Foundation. And each school poster contest winner and teacher will receive a book *The Forest Where Ashley Lives*; a booklet *What Tree is That?*; a National Arbor Day Foundation bookmark; and collector card depicting one of Colorado's native trees - from the Colorado Tree Coalition.

To view Lackey's winning poster, visit the Colorado Tree Coalition website at www.coloradotrees.org in the near future.

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