

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Statewide
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MONTANA'S YOUTH COMMUNICATE WILDFIRE PREVENTION THROUGH ART

Keep Montana Green celebrates Wildfire Awareness Month with art and youth!

Missoula, MT, May 4, 2018 – In celebration of Wildfire Awareness Month, Keep Montana Green (KMG) will be showcasing student's artwork throughout the month of May.

Businesses across the state will be displaying student's artwork along with a social media campaign. Be sure to check out www.keeptgreen.org and follow us on Facebook and Twitter to see all the great artwork and receive prevention tips just in time for the summer months! #WildfireAwarenessMonth #ArtKMG

Nine out of ten wildland fires were human-caused in 2016. KMG's mission and the goal of the art contest are to promote awareness on how to we can prevent human-caused wildfires. The contest theme this year was, "Prepare, Protect, Prevent".



Statewide All Division Winner, Davin Graves, 3rd Grade, Graff Elementary School, Mrs. Sullivan, Laurel, MT

This year marks KMG's 57th art contest, in which **3,000 students and 133 teachers from 100 schools** from across the state participated. The art entries are first judged regionally where first, second, third are decided. Then, those entries are sent to Missoula, Montana, to be judged with winners from all six regions. The state winners receive ribbons, cash prizes and statewide recognition.

Statewide Winners:

The statewide all division winner is Davin Graves, 3rd grade, Graff Elementary School, Laurel, MT!

Primary Division (K-3)

- 1 - Davin Graves, 3rd grade, Graff Elementary School, Mrs. Sullivan
- 2 - Tavin Shilhanek, 3rd grade, Graff Elementary School, Mrs. Sullivan
- 3 - Abbey Dotson, 3rd grade, Rau Elementary School, Mrs. Hill

Intermediate Division (4-6)

- 1 - Jersi Morse, 6th grade, Havre Middle School, Mrs Hansard
- 2 - Valentina Sacca, 4th grade, West Glacier Elementary, Ms Kempke
- 3 - Amelia Mason, 6th grade, Fair-Mont-Egan School, Mrs. Rohletter

Junior Division (7-9)

- 1 - Cate Cota, 8th grade, Roundup Jr./Sr. High School, Mrs. Unterseher
- 2 - Jasper Fairchild, 7th grade, Lewistown Jr. High, Mrs. Ferguson
- 3 - Malayna Nelson, 8th grade, Three Forks School, Mr. Palmer

Senior Division (10-12)

- 1 - Jesse Mae Cummings, 12th grade, Plains High School, Mrs. Cole
- 2 - Victoria Schneider, 10th grade, Fromberg Public School, Ms. O'Brien

3 - Edna Borntreger, 10th grade, Roundup Jr./Sr. High School, Mrs. Unterseher

Computer Generated Division

1 - Libby Jenkins, 9th grade, Whitefish High School, Mr. Collinsworth

2 - Jacob Novak - 3rd grade, Graff Elementary School, Mrs. Sullivan

3 - Dakota Auk - 9th grade, Hobson Public School, Mrs. Wichman

Special Education K-6

1 - Dominik Balsdon, 3rd grade, Fort Shaw Elementary, Mrs Polich

2 - Matty Clark, 3rd grade, Fort Shaw Elementary, Mrs Polich

3 - James Clark, 4th grade, Fort Shaw Elementary, Mrs Polich

Special Education 7-12

1 - Jacob Kinn, 11th grade, Terry Public School, Ms Huckins

2 - Colin Stone, 7th grade, Washington Middle School, Mr Fischer

3 - Kiara Srader, 8th grade, Washington Middle School, Mr Fischer

Our Story

Since KMG's formation at the end of World War II, the organization has been dedicated to the prevention of human-caused wildfires. KMG was formed in 1945, chartered as a tax-exempt nonprofit organization in 1961 and is governed by a Board of Directors representative of its membership. The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation has supported KMG since its inception and continues to provide the association with an Executive Director and office facilities. KMG maintains active public education and media programs focused on the prevention of wildfires in Montana.

The Art Contest

Each year, Montana students generate amazing ideas and impressive artwork that promotes Keep Montana Green Association's mission of preventing human-caused wildland fires. The contest theme this year was, "One Less Spark One Less Wildfire," with a goal of students learning about and discussing the different ways wildfires start in Montana.

Find Out More

In Montana, all things wildfire prevention start with KMG. Visit www.keepgreen.org; Like Us on www.facebook.com/keepmtgreen, and don't forget to Follow Us <https://twitter.com/KeepMTGreen>. Crystal Beckman, Executive Director, clbeckman@mt.gov, 406-542-4251.

In 2016, 9 out of 10 wildland fires were human-caused. Source: National Interagency Fire Center Wildland Safety Training Annual Refresher, <https://youtu.be/XXqI-PAkm8s>