



Recycling Coalition of WV, Inc.

P.O. Box 40113, Charleston, WV 25364
Phone: 304-926-0499 ext. 1673
wvrecycles.org

Contact: Paul Hayes, Chair - Recycling Coalition of WV, Inc. 304-926-0499 ext. 1673

January 14, 2020

Recycling Coalition honors five West Virginia students

The Recycling Coalition of West Virginia has announced the five statewide, age-category winners in its annual West Virginia Recycles Youth Contest. Hundreds of entries in the five age groups were submitted from across the state.

Winning entries in the **Coloring Contest** identified the recyclable, compostable and trash items on a coloring sheet, then cut and pasted the items next to a drawing of the appropriate compost, recycle or trash bin. Ellis Sherald, a student at Mountain Laurel Learning Cooperative in Tucker County, is the first-place winner in the K-1st grade category. The first-place winner in the 2nd-3rd grade coloring category is Camden Phillips, also a student at the Mountain Laurel Learning Cooperative. Sherald and Phillips will each receive a \$25 Visa gift card and their teacher at Mountain Laurel Learning Cooperative will receive two Visa \$75 cards for classroom materials.

The Coalition's **Freedom Contest** encourages older students to express themselves by creating a painting or drawing, writing a poem, composing or recording a song, producing a video, writing an essay, sculpting something, or completing any project based on a recycling theme. The 4th-6th grade age category winner in the Freedom Contest is Maya Casto, of Ona Elementary School in Cabell County. The judges were impressed with the message and creative use of recyclable materials depicting a turtle facing man-made pollutants found in a marine environment. Casto received a \$75 prize for her winning entry and her teacher, Ann Henry, received a companion prize of \$100.

The 7th-8th grade age category winner in the Freedom Contest is Kerstyn Clendenen of the Hear Bears 4H Club in Point Pleasant, Mason County. She received a \$75 prize for the winning entry. Clendenen's winning entry was a basket woven out of magazines and other used papers. Her 4H Club also received a companion prize of \$100.

The 9th-12th grade age category winner in the Freedom Contest is Kelsey Butcher, who used newspaper, aluminum cans, aluminum foil and paint to fabricate an articulating snake sculpture. The \$75 prize for the winning entry also includes a companion prize of \$100 for Butcher's Girl Scout Troop 38217 of Frametown in Braxton County.

Photos of the winning entries can be seen on the Coalition website (WVRecycles.com).

The goals of the Coalition's Youth Contest are to encourage students to use their creativity and learn about recycling. The West Virginia Recycles campaign features the theme, "It All Comes Back to You." The slogan presents multiple messages: a recycled product or material can return to consumers as another product; recycling comes back to consumers as an improved environment; and it is everyone's responsibility to recycle.

The Recycling Coalition of West Virginia is a non-profit environmental organization whose mission is to promote the effective and sustainable reduction, reuse and recycling of materials otherwise destined for disposal. The Recycling Coalition pursues these goals through the promotion of purchasing products made with recycled content material; by coordinating and facilitating activities relative to recycling; and by fostering communications among organizations, government agencies and individuals through the sharing of ideas and resources.

#####

Contributing Members

Harrison County SWA
Marshall County SWA
Taylor County SWA
Upshur County SWA
Berkeley County SWA
Braxton County SWA

Association of WV Solid Waste Authorities
Michael Grunau
WV Dept. of Education
Robin Sizemore

Goodwill Industries of Kanawha Valley Inc.
Kathy McKinley
WV Cashin' Recyclables, Inc.
Gary Walker

WV Solid Waste Management Board
Mark Holstine
Carol Throckmorton
Nicole Hunter
Paul Hayes
Putnam Co. SWA
Charity Fellure

WV Dept. of Environmental Protection
Thomas Aluise
Kim Smith
Annette Hoskins
Lisa Facemyer

Waste Management of WV
Wetzel County SWA
Raleigh County SWA
Tucker County SWA
Harrison County SWA
J.P. Mascaro & Sons