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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR ARBOR DAY POSTER CONTEST ENTRIES AND GREEN MEDAL AWARD NOMINATIONS

WAKE FOREST, NC – January 4, 2010 – The Wake Forest Urban Forestry Advisory Board has extended the deadline it will accept Arbor Day Poster Contest entries and Green Medal Award nominations from Jan. 8 to Jan. 29.

The Arbor Day Poster contest is designed for elementary school students in grades K-5 who live in Wake Forest. Urban Forestry Advisory Board (UFAB) members will judge the poster contest according to artwork, creativity and depiction of this year's theme – "Trees are Terrific...and Energy Wise!" Complete contest rules are available at www.wakeforestnc.gov/government/urbanforestryboard.aspx.

Submissions may be mailed or hand-delivered to Town of Wake Forest, c/o Ann Ayers, Arbor Day Poster Contest, 401 Elm Ave., Wake Forest, NC 27587 and must be received no later than 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29, 2010.

The UFAB will award \$50 U.S. savings bonds to the contest winners in four categories: 1) Best Picture; 2) Most Creative; 3) Honorable Mention; and 4) 5th Grade State Entry.

The illustration selected for "Best Picture" will be printed on Arbor Day promotional items, such as T-shirts and coffee mugs.

The 5th Grade State Entry category is limited to 5th graders only. One 5th grader's poster will be chosen from among the entries to be entered in the state competition with a chance to advance to the national contest.

Award notifications will be mailed to each winner's school and home address. Awards will be presented to the contest winners during the 2010 Wake Forest Arbor Day Celebration. Scheduled for Thursday, March 11, 2010, at 10 a.m., the ceremony will be held at the Wake Forest Community House, 133 W. Owen Ave. All poster entries will also be on display throughout the event.

The Green Medal Awards recognize individuals, groups, and businesses that promote good environmental stewardship and excellence in service, while demonstrating an unwavering commitment to the enhancement of Wake Forest's urban forest.

The [Town of Wake Forest](#) has been designated as a Tree City USA for the past 30 years. This distinction is the result of the invaluable efforts of local volunteers and groups that assist with Urban Forestry Board projects aimed at improving the environment and the community. The 2010 Green Medal Awards will recognize these individuals and groups that have been instrumental in local tree issues and projects during 2009. Awards will be presented in the following categories:

Civic - Awarded to an individual, civic club or organization that has shown outstanding service, education, tree planting or other volunteer-based work. Participation in an Urban Forestry Board-sponsored event is encouraged, but should not be the only example of service.

Corporate - Awarded to a company or business which exhibits a pattern of commitment to the environment, or which has made a significant contribution to the urban forest through an internal education program, a self-initiated tree planting or other outreach project.

Program or Project - Designed to honor a program or project which promotes good urban forestry or environmental practice, or to a development which has shown excellence in tree preservation or landscaping. Only those developments which exceed town requirements or meet them by using particularly creative methods such as innovative planting or design will be considered.

Community Forester - This award is intended to honor a lifetime or career of excellence in urban forestry or leadership in environmental integrity and practice. The recipient's service should be demonstrated as having a significant impact on the community.

Nomination forms are available online on the Urban Forestry Board website located at www.wakeforestnc.gov/government/urbanforestryboard.aspx and at the Wake Forest Planning Office, 221 S. Brooks St.

Green Medal Award nominations may be mailed to Ann Ayers, Town of Wake Forest, 401 Elm Ave., Wake Forest, NC 27587, faxed to (919) 554-6607 or emailed to aayers@wakeforestnc.gov. Completed nominations must be received no later than 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 29, 2010.

Green Medal Award recipients will also be recognized at the Annual Arbor Day Celebration.

For additional information about the Arbor Day Poster Contest and the Green Medal Awards program, contact Ann Ayers at (919) 554-6143 or aayers@wakeforestnc.gov.

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For more information about the Town of Wake Forest, contact Public Information Officer [Bill Crabtree](#) at (919) 554-6196.