



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
TRANSPORTATION CABINET
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GOVERNOR

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2023 Adopt-A-Highway Art Contest Winners Announced

12 Kentucky students selected from nearly 900 entries to promote litter-free roadsides

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Dec. 7, 2023) – Gov. Andy Beshear today announced that 12 students representing 11 Kentucky counties were top finishers in the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet’s 2023 Adopt-A-Highway Art Contest. The annual contest allows young Kentuckians to showcase their talents while promoting an important message of keeping roadsides free of litter.

This year’s theme “Can it, Kentucky” drew in nearly 900 entries statewide from students ages 5-18. The [winning art](#) came from students representing 12 unique schools.

“We’re thankful to have young and talented Kentuckians lend a hand at sharing an important message to encourage us all to do our part to keep Kentucky beautiful,” said Gov. Andy Beshear.

Adding his congratulations to the winners, KYTC Secretary Jim Gray touched on the importance of promoting a cleaner Kentucky.

“Litter-free roadsides do more than protect our scenic byways; they also keep harmful materials from washing off roads and sidewalks and into our drinking water,” said Secretary Jim Gray. “We’re grateful to have students be part of the solution of maintaining a clean and safe environment.”

The top finishers in each of the four age divisions will receive a \$100 gift card, while second- and third-place finishers will each receive a \$50 gift card. First- through third-place recipients for all age groups will have their pieces displayed at the Transportation Cabinet Office Building in Frankfort.

The 2023 contest winners are:

5-8 age category

1st place	Simran Lad	Shirley Mann Elementary School, Boone County
2nd place	Cruz Melton	Greenville Elementary School, Muhlenberg County
3rd place	Joshua James	Victory Arts, Carter County

9-11 age category

1st place	Meera Patel	Good Shepherd School, Franklin County
2nd place	Natalie Leake	Old Kentucky Home Middle School, Nelson County
3rd place	Sophia Reik	Garrard Middle School, Garrard County

12-14 age category

1st place	Blakely Callahan	South Laurel High School, Laurel County
2nd place	Kathryn Whitecotton	Heritage Christian Academy, Christian County
3rd place	Brynlee Smith	McLean County Middle School

15-18 age category

1st place	Jasmine Beckwith	Christian County High School
2nd place	Shannen Eckert	Rockcastle County High School
3rd place	Cloey Bowman	Morgan County High School

The Adopt-A-Highway program is a statewide volunteer effort to reduce roadside litter and keep Kentucky's highways beautiful. Litter-free roads promote a clean environment, foster civic pride, and save taxpayer dollars. More information on Kentucky's Adopt-A-Highway program can be found at <https://transportation.ky.gov/AdoptaHighway/Pages/default.aspx>.

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