

# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

## California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

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### Winners of 2014 California Arbor Week Poster Contest Unveiled

**SACRAMENTO** – To kick off Arbor Week, which runs March 7 – 14, 2014, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and California ReLeaf will announce the winners of the annual statewide Arbor Week poster contests for students in third, fourth and fifth grades. Foresters will also be on hand to provide important information on how Californians can help trees survive during the ongoing extreme drought conditions.

Students were asked to create original artwork based on the theme “Trees Make My Community Healthy” to further the goals of Arbor Week which include educating Californians about the environmental, social and economic benefits of trees. Winners were then selected by California Re Leaf, CAL FIRE’s urban forestry and resource management staff, and California State Forester Ken Pimlott. One winning poster from each grade will be unveiled Thursday, March 6 at 10 a.m. in Room 1190 at the State Capitol.

“It’s important for students to learn that trees are a vital part of a healthy environment and one of our state’s most precious natural resources,” said Ken Pimlott, California’s state forester and the director of CAL FIRE. “During this drought emergency, it’s critical to use water wisely when caring for trees. One way to conserve water is by using mulch around trees to reduce water evaporation.”

For information on how to help trees survive the drought, visit [http://calfire.ca.gov/downloads/CaUFC\\_Trees\\_and\\_Drought.pdf](http://calfire.ca.gov/downloads/CaUFC_Trees_and_Drought.pdf)

“It is evident from the entries in this year’s Arbor Week poster contest that children understand the role healthy trees play in healthy communities,” said Amelia Oliver, California ReLeaf’s interim Executive Director. “Arbor Week provides California communities a chance to celebrate the hard work trees do for us all year long.”

The winning posters were selected from over 600 entries from across California. The winning artists will receive cash prizes provided by the California Community Forests Foundation and their creations will be displayed in the Capitol and at the State Fair.

California Arbor Week runs March 7 – 14 every year to mark famed horticulturist Luther Burbank’s birthday and to raise awareness of the benefits of trees in our communities. In 2011, legislation was passed to define California Arbor Week in statute. Visit [www.arborweek.org](http://www.arborweek.org) for more information.

California ReLeaf works statewide to promote alliances among community-based groups, individuals, industry, and government agencies, encouraging each to contribute to the livability of our cities and the protection of our environment by planting and caring for trees. Visit [www.californiareleaf.org](http://www.californiareleaf.org) for more information.

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