



**Barton Springs
Edwards Aquifer**
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

MEDIA COMMUNICATION

For Immediate Release: Friday, April 9, 2010

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Aquifer District Announces Winners of 2010 Scholarship Contests

(Austin) - The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District has announced the winners of its 10th Annual College Scholarship Essay Contest and its 3rd Annual Camp Scholarship program.

This year's winner of the College Scholarship Essay Contest is James Bowie High School senior Maria Vice. An independent evaluation panel selected Ms. Vice's essay, titled "Blood in the Veins of the Earth", as the winning entry, and she will receive a \$1,500 scholarship to the college, community college, or training institution of her choice. Essays had to focus generally on groundwater or groundwater issues; however, it was not mandatory that applicants be planning a career in water resources. High School students attending public schools in the Austin, Eanes, Dripping Springs, Hays Consolidated, Del Valle, Bastrop, and Lockhart Independent School Districts, as well as private and home-schooled students in these areas, were eligible.

District staff selected five at-large judges from the Austin area along with a District staff member to read and evaluate the essays. This year's judges were Jeff Barton, Hays County Commissioner; Marsha May, Biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair of the City of Austin Environmental Board; Tracy Mulligan, Instructional Technologist with Hays Consolidated Independent School District, and Phil Moncada, Environmental Consultant and Secretary of the City of Austin Environmental Board. Kirk Holland, General Manager of the BSEACD, was the judge from the District staff.

The District awards program also includes additional age groups of District-area students through scholarships to the Edwards Aquifer Data and Research Center's Aquatic Science Adventure Camp at Texas State University in San Marcos. This very successful program required interested students to submit an application and a 1-page essay/artwork entitled "Why I want to attend the Aquatic Science Adventure Camp!" to establish eligibility. The contest was open to children ages 9 through 15 who reside in one of the seven school districts that touch the District's boundary. Two winners for 5-day camp scholarships and two winners for 2-day camp scholarships were chosen in a random drawing. 2010 Winners for the 5-day camp are David Pratter (6th grade) of Kealing Magnet Middle School and Joshua Gilmore (7th grade) of Legacy Oaks Christian School. 2010 Winners for the 2-day camp are Joshua Collins (5th grade) Austin Montessori School and Jurnee Jackson (4th grade) of Cook Elementary.

The District would like to thank its permittees Texas Lehigh, Hays Consolidated Independent School District, and Gilbert Johnson, for donating their Conservation Credits to the camp scholarship program.

The District's General Manager, Kirk Holland, noted, "Each year at this time, we are reminded that scholarships like these are one of the more long-lasting things we do to foster good stewardship of our increasingly precious water resources. This year's contest winners demonstrate excellence in appreciating these needs and reinforcing their importance."

All winners are invited to be special guests of the District's Board of Directors at its regular meeting on Thursday, May 13, to be officially acknowledged and commended for their efforts.

For information about future scholarship programs visit www.bseacd.org.

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