



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Champion Theme Middle School Student Represents DeKalb County in Essay Contest

Brandon Royster, a student at Champion Theme Middle School, is the DeKalb County winner in the sixth annual water conservation and water quality essay contest, sponsored by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (The Water District). The Water District is a planning entity dedicated to developing comprehensive watershed, wastewater and water supply and water conservation plans to be implemented by local governments in the 16-county metro Atlanta region. The Clean Water Campaign and Water Use It Wisely are public education campaigns designed to educate and promote behavior changes in water conservation and water quality.

Brandon Royster will be presented with his award at Champion Theme Middle School on Friday, January 25, 2008. Burrell Ellis, DeKalb County Commissioner, will present Brandon with the County Award. Commissioner Ellis said, "DeKalb County takes water conservation seriously. We have put in place several measures to ensure that we have water for all DeKalb County residents. Some of these measures are a brand new toilet retrofit rebate program, enforcing tight water restrictions and executing an aggressive education and outreach water conservation campaign." Royster's essay outlines simple ways his family conserves water in their home. In his essay Royster's says, "My mother checks the water meter and bill to see how much water is being used. I normally time my shower so I will not exceed five minutes. By doing this, you can save up to 1000 gallons a month."

The two campaigns, Clean Water Campaign and Water Use It Wisely, teamed up to encourage children and parents to address the growing need to improve water quality and water conservation efforts in Georgia. Students researched and shared their thoughts on why conserving water and preventing water pollution are important for the future of their rivers, lakes and streams. The main goal of this program is to encourage students to create inventive solutions to water conservation and water quality in metro North Georgia.

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The contest was open to sixth, seventh and eighth graders in Bartow, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Forsyth, Gwinnett, Hall, Henry, Paulding, Rockdale and Walton Counties. Each participating school submitted its winning essay for the county competition, and one overall District Winner was selected among the county winners. County winners receive a \$25 check along with a Clean Water Campaign / Water Use It Wisely certificate presented by an elected official from that county.

To view the names of the winners, and read the Water District's winning essay please visit, the Clean Water Campaign website at www.cleanwatercampaign.com.

About the Campaigns

*The **Clean Water Campaign** (www.cleanwatercampaign.com) is a cooperative, multi-agency education initiative spearheaded by local governments in metro Atlanta, supported by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District and managed by the Atlanta Regional Commission. Its mission is to build awareness of water quality problems and solutions in the 16-county District.*

***Water- Use It Wisely** (www.wateruseitwisely.com) is a program that educates consumers about simple water conservation measures. It is a multi-state program that is being sponsored in the metro Atlanta area by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District.*

***Champion Theme Middle School** is located at 5265 Mimosa Drive, Stone Mountain, GA 30083. For more information about the school or student, please call 678-875-1502.*

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