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Hall County Student Awarded for Winning Essay Contest

Kelley Miller, a student at North Hall Middle School, is the Hall County and overall winner in the fourth annual Clean Water Campaign/Water Use It Wisely Essay Contest. Miller, a 7th grader, received a \$100 cash prize. Commission Chairman Tom Oliver and Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Chairman Kit Dunlap presented her award on Thursday, November 3, 2005.

In honoring Miller with her achievements, Chairman Oliver went over the responsibility of protecting water resources by saying, "Protecting our waters is everyone's job. Hall County works hard every day to make sure that you have clean water when you turn on the faucet."

Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District Chairman Kit Dunlap asked students at the award presentation, "What is the most valuable and precious resource here on earth?" Students cheered, "Water, Water, Water." Chairman Dunlap responded, "the value of students participating in this essay contest is priceless." She added, "The winner represents students from across 16-counties metro North Georgia counties that make up the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District.

The annual essay contest is held to encourage children and parents to address the growing need to improve water quality and conservation efforts in Georgia. Students researched and shared their thoughts on why conserving water and preventing water pollution is important for the future of their river, lakes and streams. The main goal of the essay contest was to encourage students to create inventive solutions to water conservation and water quality in metro Atlanta.

Miller said in her essay, "water pollution affects essentially everyone. This means no water for drinking, recreation, agriculture, or industry." She concluded by saying, "If everyone takes the time and a little bit of effort, then we can keep our water clean."

The two organizations teamed up to encourage children and parents to address the growing need to improve water quality and 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 river, 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.

In her essay, Kelley Miller said, "Water pollution affects essentially everyone...If everyone takes the time and a little bit of effort, then we can keep our water clean."

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. More than 1,000 middle school students from throughout the district participated. Each participating school submitted its winning essay for



the county competition, and one overall winner was selected from among the county winners. County winners received 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 the winning essays, visit the Clean Water Campaign's Web site (www.cleanwatercampaign.com) and click on the essay contest link.

About the Clean Water Campaign

The **Clean Water Campaign** is a cooperative, multi-agency public 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 Atlanta region.

Water- Use It Wisely (www.wateruseitwisely.com) is a program that educates consumers about specific and simple water conservation measures they can use everyday to help. It is a multi-state program that is being sponsored in the metro Atlanta area by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District in partnership with the Georgia Pollution Prevention Assistance Division.

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