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Woodstock Middle School Student Represents Cherokee County in Essay Contest

Sarah Alvarez, a student at Woodstock Middle School, is the Cherokee County winner in the sixth annual water conservation and water quality essay contest, sponsored by the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (Water District). The Water District is a planning entity dedicated to developing comprehensive watershed, wastewater and water supply and 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.

Alvarez will be presented with an award at Woodstock Middle School on Wednesday, December 19, 2007. Buzz Ahrens, Chairman of Cherokee Board of Commissioners presented Sarah Alvarez with the County Award. Chairman Ahrens said, "Cherokee County has grown significantly within the last five years. This rapid growth makes it imperative that we conserve our water resources to ensure there is water for the future of Cherokee County. You can make that difference." In Alvarez' essay, she says, "Growing populations, ongoing droughts and pollution are squeezing our water sources dry, causing natural habitat degradation and impacting our everyday use of water. We have no choice but to pay more attention to how we are using water and how we may be wasting it. We must bridge gap between our understanding of how important water is to our survival and what we can do to ensure that we have an adequate supply of clean and pure water for years to come."

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 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.

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

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Walton Counties. Each participating school submitted its winning essay for the county competition, and one overall winner was selected from 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, visit the Clean Water Campaign's Web site (www.cleanwatercampaign.com) and click on the essay contest link.

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.

Woodstock Middle School is located at 2000 Towne Lake Hills Drive, Woodstock, GA 30189. For more information about the school or student, please call 770-592-3516.

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