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# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

## California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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### Arbor Week Begins in California

**SACRAMENTO** - March 7<sup>th</sup> marks the start of Arbor Week in California. Over the course of one week cities, nature groups, schools, and youth organizations will host events to plant trees and provide educational opportunities to learn about the benefits of forests, both rural and urban. California is one of two states that celebrates Arbor Week for an entire week each year with the goal of emphasizing the important impact that trees have on residents and their communities.

“There are millions of acres of public forest in California that people use every day for recreation, but California also has urban forests that provide benefits every day for millions of people,” said Chief Robert Little, CAL FIRE’s State Urban Forester. “Healthy urban forests store carbon, cool our cities, clean the air, beautify the streets and offers shade relief. This is why CAL FIRE is dedicated to improving urban forests across the state through grants and education.”

As part of that education outreach, CAL FIRE and California ReLeaf, an organization that works diligently to preserve, protect, and enhance California’s urban forests, host a statewide poster and video contest each year. Today, officials from both organizations gathered in West Sac to announce the winners of the statewide Arbor Week poster contest.

Students from across California in grades 3, 4, and 5 were asked to create original artwork based on the theme “*Healthy Trees, Healthy Me.*”

This year’s poster contest winners are 3<sup>rd</sup>-grader Abigail Osborne, Anderson, CA; 4<sup>th</sup>-grader Marianna Hinojosa, Stockton, CA; 5<sup>th</sup>-grader Sarah Osborne, Anderson, CA; and winner of the Imagination Award, 5<sup>th</sup>-grader Morgan Becker, Wheatland, CA. This year’s video award goes to 11<sup>th</sup>-grader Iris Bookholtz, Wheatland, CA.

“Arbor Week gives communities in California an opportunity to highlight and celebrate the vital role that trees play in our cities and in our forests,” said Chief Ken Pimlott, CAL FIRE director and California’s state forester. “The outpouring of participation from the school children reflects their growing understanding of trees in their backyard, but also the forests across the state and the effect that healthy forests can have in our everyday life.”

As part of the department’s mission, CAL FIRE is charged with protecting California’s forests by maintaining the sustainability of the state’s natural resources including both urban and wildland forests. CAL FIRE is encouraging everyone to be a part of California Arbor Week by planting a tree. It’s important that you carefully [plan before you plant](#) a tree to help ensure that your tree is [drought tolerant](#) and properly placed to avoid growing into power lines, buildings or other

infrastructure. Get more tree care tips on the CAL FIRE website at [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov).

California Arbor Week runs March 7-14 each year. To view this year's Arbor Week poster contest winners, visit [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov). For more on Arbor Week visit [www.arborweek.org](http://www.arborweek.org)

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