

News Release

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For Immediate Release



To:
Local News and
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Deadline extended for kids' calendar entries Annual Air District contest seeks student art

Calling all student artists! The deadline to submit artwork for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's 2009 Healthy Air Living Kids Calendar has been extended to Monday, Oct. 20.

The Valley Air District produces the four-color, bilingual calendar each year. About 20,000 calendars are distributed free to schools, community groups, healthcare facilities, churches and non-profit organizations in December.

Valley school students in kindergarten through 12th grade who live within the Air District's boundaries are eligible to enter the contest. Artists should place the page sideways, in landscape orientation, so the paper is 8½ inches high and 11 inches wide. Artwork should be in color and contain a written message about how to live a healthy air life. Healthy Air Living, a new, comprehensive initiative, aims to improve the health and quality of life of all Valley residents by making air quality a priority consideration in all business and personal decisions.

Messages for the 2008 calendar included:

- "Electric lawnmowers spare the air."
- "Save the earth. Walk to School."
- "Don't light a wood fireplace when the air is bad."

Messages for the 2009 calendar could include:

- Live a Healthy Air Life!
- Healthy Air Starts with Me!
- When we breathe cleaner, we live better!
- Avoid using leaf blowers.
- Use a propane grill instead of charcoal.
- Avoid drive-through restaurants.

Fourteen drawings will be selected for the calendar. Artists must include their name, address, phone number, age, grade and school on the back of the artwork and mail it flat, not folded, to 2009 Kids Calendar, Valley Air District, 1990 E. Gettysburg Ave., Fresno, CA 93726.

The winning drawings for the 2008 calendar and more information on the 2009 contest are available on the District's website at www.valleyair.org/kids/Clean_Air_Calendar_Contest.htm. For more information, call the nearest office: Northern Region (209) 557-6400, Central Region, (559) 230-6000 or Southern Region, (661) 326-6900. Organizations can request calendars by calling one of these offices or by sending an e-mail to brenda.turner@valleyair.org.

The Valley Air District covers eight counties including San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and San Joaquin Valley air basin portions of Kern.