

Media Release

Delaware Department of State

for Delaware Day



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2008 Delaware Day Competition Officially Begins

Secretary of State Celebrates Opening with Dover Fourth Graders

Dover – The 7th Annual Fourth Grade Delaware Day Competition was officially announced today by Secretary of State Harriet Windsor at Booker T. Washington Elementary School in Dover. The theme of this year’s competition is “Citizen Involvement.”

When Dr. Windsor, a former educator, became Delaware’s Secretary of State in 2001, she set out to enhance civics education in Delaware’s schools by sponsoring a competition that would excite students about Delaware history and encourage them to study the federal Constitution. For the past six years, this program has been very successful in engaging fourth-grade students in a cooperative learning experience that complements the curriculum by developing their research and persuasive writing skills, as well as their analytical abilities.

“Each year I look forward to officially opening this special program,” said Secretary Windsor. “The real joy, however, is seeing all of the wonderful projects our talented students create from what they have learned.”

The competition, which is specifically designed to support state civics and history standards, also has a large creativity aspect to it. Participating fourth-grade classrooms will create four poster board or foam-core board display panels, each addressing panel questions posed by Secretary Windsor. In the past, students have designed their final panels using such elements as written statements, graphs, cartoons, original artwork, and poetry.

This year not only marks the seventh year of the competition, but also the 220th anniversary of the ratification of the U.S. Constitution and the 75th anniversary of the establishment of Delaware Day.

Secretary Windsor will recognize the participating students and their teachers for their achievements with a special closing ceremony to be held at the Delaware Public Archives on December 6, the day before Delaware Day. Awards will be given out at the event, and many of the projects will be on display.

Names of all participating students and teachers will also be added to the Department of State's Honor Roll which now features the names of 3,523 students and 192 teachers representing schools throughout the State. Last year's winning entries, as well as more information on the Competition, can be found on the Department's Delaware Day website: <http://delawareday.delaware.gov/>.

Fourth-grade teachers wishing to enroll their classroom in the competition should contact the Division of Historical & Cultural Affairs' Curator of Education, Madeline Dunn, at 302-736-7417. Registered participants receive a free instructional resource packet.

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For further information on this Press Release, please contact Christopher Portante, Community Relations Coordinator for the Department of State at (302) 739-4111.