



# TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE

## JERRY PATTERSON, COMMISSIONER

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Angelica Castro wins Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest

AUSTIN — Gonzales 11-year-old Angelica Castro won top honors in the Texas General Land Office's 2009 Treasures of the Texas Coast Children's Art Contest. A total of 40 students from across Texas also received honors for their artwork depicting their love for the Texas coast.

Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, selected Angelica's work from more than 5100 entries submitted by Texas schoolchildren.

"Angelica has an artist's touch and her watercolor rendition of a Texas beach scene really stood out," Patterson said. "Her use of the Texas General Land Office's Adopt-A-Beach slogan — 'Trashing Texas Beaches Isn't cool!' — will look great as the cover of next year's Adopt-A-Beach calendar."

The General Land Office will feature this and other winning entries in the Children's Art Contest Calendar, which will be available in January 2010. Angelica, as grand prize winner, will receive two round-trip tickets to any Continental destination in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean or South America. Angelica's fifth-grade class at North Avenue Intermediate will also be treated to a party at one of three Schlitterbahn Waterparks in New Braunfels, South Padre Island or Galveston. Angelica's teacher will also receive two round-trip, coach-class tickets courtesy of Continental Airlines.

This year, 40 finalists were selected. The judges selected 10 winners in each of the four categories: Kindergarten, first-grade and second-grade; third-grade and fourth-grade; fifth-grade and sixth-grade. Angelica's grand prize entry was selected from the list of finalists.

All 40 finalists will receive a ticket to the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi, two all-day passes to Schlitterbahn Waterparks, prizes and a certificate of recognition from Commissioner Patterson and a calendar featuring the winning artwork. Prizes will be mailed in May.

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The artwork of all 40 finalists will be on display at the State Capitol from 2 p.m. May 16 to 3 p.m. on May 21. The display will be in the Capitol Extension, Central Gallery, level two. A special thank you goes to State Senator Eddie Lucio, from Brownsville, for sponsoring the exhibit.

All of the finalists' artwork will also be added to the Adopt-A-Beach Web site in a few weeks. Please check our Web site at [www.texasadoptabeach.org](http://www.texasadoptabeach.org) later in April.

This year's contest sponsors are Continental Airlines, Schlitterbahn Waterparks and the Texas State Aquarium.

The annual contest is organized through the General Land Office's Adopt-A-Beach Program. This year's Spring Cleanup is scheduled to take place on April 25 at 27 sites along the Texas coast.

The contest began in 1996 to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Adopt-A-Beach Program. The annual competition encourages Texas schoolchildren to learn more about the Texas coast and express what they've learned in their art.

For more information on the Treasures of the Texas Coast 2009 Children's Art Contest, please contact the General Land Office at 1-877-TXCOAST or visit our Web site at <http://www.texasadoptabeach.org>.

### **Grades K, 1 & 2**

<b>Student Name</b>	<b>City, State</b>
Briana Garza	Baytown
Rafael Ramirez	Houston
Conrad Castillo	Houston
Kayla Matthews	Victoria
Zoe Puno	Houston
Matthew Liao	Houston
Haley Housworth	Port Lavaca
Christina Zhang	Houston
Melbourn Motl	Port Lavaca
Cole Rather	Victoria

### **Grades 3 & 4**

Christina Stephenson	Austin
Barbara Hernandez	Houston
Ilona Altman	Houston
Gabrielle Wenske	Victoria
Andrea Grant	San Antonio
Megan Fontenot	Longview
Andrew Liao	Houston
Brianna Hoelscher	Corpus Christi
Sydni Reeves	Lampasas
Jonathan Carrillo	Dallas

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**Fifth grade**

Jennifer Munguia	Houston
Emily Aldridge	Vidor
Andrea Valencia	Baytown
Angelica Castro	Gonzales
Yesenia Molina	Edinburg
Dillon Hanly	Flower Mound
Jessica King	Palestine
Melody Boone	Spring
Luis Chavez	Houston
Vanessa Pastenes	Livingston

**Sixth grade**

Morgan LeMoine	Orange
Hannah Keck	Gonzales
Kenzie Bennett	Waco
Sarah Launikitis	Houston
Alexis Fowler	Beaumont
Jose Godinez	Houston
Ted Shi	Friendswood
Brooke Castetter	Beaumont
Liam Wilson	Longview
Chandra Rivera	Laredo

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