

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stecoah Valley Cultural Arts Center

Robbinsville, NC 28771

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Joyce Kilmer Poetry Contest Winners

The Joyce Kilmer Poetry Contest sponsored by the Stecoah Valley Cultural Arts Center in Stecoah NC has concluded. A panel of judges including former North Carolina Poet Laureate Kathryn Stripling Byer, Joyce Kilmer's granddaughter Miriam Kilmer, and poet Catherine Carter made the final selection. The first place winner of the K-4th Grade Student category is Jake Pitney of Sylva, NC. Jake is a 4th grader at Mountain Discovery Charter School, and the title of his winning poem is "The Forest". The 5-8th grade winner is Emma Pindur of Bryson City, NC. Emma is a 5th grade student at Mountain Discovery Charter School and the title of her poem is "Joyce Kilmer". The winner in the High School category is Madison Elisabeth Corthell of Candler NC. Her poem is titled "A Forest to Treasure". Madison is a 9th grader at Enka High School. "Lost in the Roar of Big Santeetlah" by Mary Ricketson of Murphy, NC is the first place winner in the Adult/Professional category.

Second place in the K-4 Student category is Ceairah Silvers of Franklin, NC. Ceairah is a 2nd grade student at Cartoogechaye Elementary School, and the title of her poem is "The Trees". Third place in this age group is Madison Dilts of Raleigh NC. The title of her poem is "A Tree is Like a House". Madison is a 3rd grader at Vance Elementary. Katelyn Black of Robbinsville NC won 2nd Place in the 5-8th grade category for "Forest Ground". Katelyn attends Robbinsville Middle School. The second place poem in the Adult/Professional category is "Winter Woods" by Kit Schmeiser of Fairview NC; and third place in the Adult/Professional category is awarded to Julia Nunnally Duncan of Marion NC for "My Mother's Elm".

Over 115 Adult and Professional entries were received, mostly from non-professionals and from all points of the US – Washington State, Rhode Island, Arizona, Florida and many from all across North Carolina. There is one entry from a foreign country – India. All 40 student entries came from North Carolina, which is how the contest was promoted to students.

The contestants learned about the contest from their local newspapers, bookstores, libraries, their schools, other publications, and a large variety of websites. Many of the contestants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to honor the Joyce Kilmer Forest and trees in general. Stecoah Valley Center would like to thank the judges, the Graham County Women's Club, and the prize donors: Snowbird Mountain Lodge, Fontana Village, Nantahala Gorge Canopy Tours, Falling Waters Adventure Resort, Nantahala Outdoor Center, Nantahala Village Resort, and Microtel in Robbinsville.

The winning poems will be displayed at the Joyce Kilmer 75th Anniversary Celebration on July 30th in Robbinsville, NC. For more information about the 75th Anniversary Celebration please go to www.joycekilmerslickrock.org/anniversary. All poems submitted will be posted at the Stecoah Valley Cultural Arts Center throughout July. Stecoah Valley Cultural Arts Center is located at 121 Schoolhouse Road in the Stecoah Community between Bryson City NC and Fontana Dam. For more information, call 828-479-3364 or visit www.stecoahvalleycenter.com

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Newspapers

- Mountain Xpress
- Graham Star
- Asheville Citizen Times
- Raleigh News & Observer
- Smoky Mountain News
- Smoky Mountain Times
- Smoky Mountain Sentinel
- Cherokee Scout
- Sylva Herald
- Georgia Sentinel
- Cashiers Chronicle
- Fun Things To Do in the Mountains

Bookstores

- City Lights, Sylva NC

Libraries

- Marianna Black Library, Bryson City NC
- Graham County Public Library, Robbinsville NC
- Rhode Island College Adams Library, Providence RI

Other Publications

- WNC Magazine
- Panorama (NC Retired Teachers)
- Rapid River

Schools

- Cartoogechaye Elementary, Franklin NC
- Fairview Elementary, Sylva NC
- Ephesus Elementary, Chapel Hill NC
- Cullowhee Valley Elementary, Cullowhee NC
- Vance Elementary, Raleigh NC
- Ranger Elementary/Middle, Murphy NC
- Weldon Elementary/Middle, Weldon NC
- The Learning Center Charter School, Murphy NC
- Mountain Discovery Charter School, Bryson City NC
- Francine Delany New School, Asheville NC
- Robbinsville Middle, Robbinsville NC
- Waynesville Middle, Waynesville NC
- Hendersonville Middle, Hendersonville NC
- Brevard Middle, Pisgah Forest NC
- Robbinsville High School, Robbinsville NC
- Smoky Mountain High School, Sylva NC
- Enka High School, Enka NC

Internet

- Tuckesegee Reader
- Kathryn Stripling Byer blog
- NC Arts Council
- Facebook – Val Kilmer Official Fan Page, Kay Byer, Stecoah Valley Center
- NC Forest Service – Joyce Kilmer page
- Stecoah Valley Center
- NC Writers Network
- Google Search
- International Competition Blog spot

Other

- Word of Mouth
- Other Poetry Contests
- NPR
- Writers' Clubs
- John Covell, Joyce Kilmer biographer

States:

- Arkansas 1
- Arizona 1
- Florida 2

Georgia	5
Illinois	3
Indiana	1
Minnesota	1
North Carolina	90
South Carolina	3
Rhode Island	2
Tennessee	3
Virginia	1
Washington	1