

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE USE June 17, 2018

Rural Awareness Scholar Awards Presented to 9 Franklin Students

The twelfth annual Rural Awareness Scholar Award essay winners were announced by the organization at Franklin Township School's awards assembly June 15 in Hunterdon County. The non-profit group sponsors the essay contest for all Franklin Township School students in grades 3, 4, and 5. Judges determine which essays best convey the theme of the year's topic.

Students were told their big city cousins are coming to visit for a month this summer and asked to write them a letter describing life in rural Franklin Township and what they might expect from a visit here.

Ninety-five students entered the competition. Nine winners were selected. Fourth grader Sophia Randall won first in her class and also was named Grand Champion. Other fourth grade winners are Olivia French, second, and Ryland Hender, honorable mention.

Third grade winners are Tyler Turek, first; Joseph Hubert, second; and Kirsten Obiedzinski, honorable mention. Fifth grade winners are Kevin York, first; Chase Kober, second; and Brooke Obiedzinski, honorable mention.

Teachers of the winning students are Lynn Johnson, Dr. Barry Kramer, Janet Prassl, Susan Rainaldi, Tracy Strycky, and Jeff Weinhold.

Grand Champion Randall promises her cousins a summer they won't forget—with more stop signs than traffic lights, beautiful orchards, green grassy fields, perfectly sweet pick-your-own strawberries kissed by the warmth of the sun, and no bright lights or tall buildings to block the view of millions of stars twinkling against a sky of deep sapphire blue. She also suggests, "If you happen to get behind a slow moving tractor...on the road, just put down your window and take it all in!"

Other writers touted all the rural charms of places to play and places to learn, of lightning bugs and hot air balloons, of swimming in pools or the reservoir, of hikes along creeks with lots of birds and wildlife, of fishing, of a chance to milk a goat or ride a horse, and of camping out in the backyard. Most promised trips to the ice cream store. Prizewinners all receive gift certificates to the Clinton Book Shop. First place gets \$50; second, \$30; and honorable mention, \$10. The grand prize winner is selected from the three first place winners and additionally receives a gift certificate for a pizza night at Frank's Italian Restaurant in Clinton. The Clinton Book Shop and Frank's Italian Restaurant generously partner with Rural Awareness each year for the competition. All entrants receive a certificate of participation.

The nine winning essays will be posted on the Rural Awareness website at www.ruralawareness.org.

Rural Awareness is dedicated to preserving the rich history and rural character of Franklin Township.



CAPTION FOR PHOTO:

Rural Awareness Scholars for 2018 at Franklin Township School are, left to right: Sophia Randall, fourth grade first place and Grand Champion; Tyler Turek, third grade first place; Brooke Obiedzinski, fifth grade honorable mention; Kirsten Obiedzinski, third grade honorable mention; Chase Kober, fifth grade second place; Olivia French, fourth grade second place; Kevin York, fifth grade first place; Joseph Hubert, third grade second place; and Ryland Hender, fourth grade honorable mention.