PRESS RELEASE

2017 Adopt-A-Beach Children’s Art Contest Opens
Top prize: United Airline tickets, Royal Caribbean Cruise and a class trip to Schlitterbahn

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AUSTIN — Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush is calling for entries in the 21st annual Adopt-A-Beach "Treasures of the Texas Coast" Children's Art Contest. The deadline to submit artwork is Wednesday, March 1, 2017.

"Our vast coastline is truly a Texas treasure, yet many students across the state have not yet had the opportunity to see it up close," said Commissioner Bush. "The 'Treasures of the Texas Coast' Children's Art Contest is a great opportunity for kids across Texas to explore the coast and express their appreciation for its natural beauty and exotic wildlife in a creative manner. As a father and a former educator, I encourage parents and teachers to inspire students in kindergarten through 6th grade to participate."

Commissioner Bush will select the grand prize winner. This year's grand prize winner will receive two round-trip coach-class tickets from United Airlines to any United destination in the 48 contiguous United States, Alaska, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean, one 7-night Caribbean cruise from Royal Caribbean International departing out of Galveston, Miami, Ft. Lauderdale, Port Canaveral or Puerto Rico and a class party at Schlitterbahn Waterpark in New Braunfels.

The grand prize winner's teacher will also receive two round-trip coach-class tickets from United Airlines, and one 7-night Caribbean cruise courtesy of Royal Caribbean International.

Ten winners will be chosen from each of four grade-level categories (K - 2nd, 3rd - 4th, 5th, and 6th). One grand prize winner will be chosen from the 40 finalists. All 40 winners will receive a ticket to the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi, a ticket to the Houston Zoo, two all-day passes to Schlitterbahn Waterpark in New Braunfels, a certificate of recognition and prizes from the Texas General Land Office and a calendar displaying the winning artwork.

Winning artwork will appear together in a 2018 calendar, which will be distributed across the state. The Adopt-A-Beach "Treasures of the Texas Coast" Children's Art Contest began in 1996 to mark the 10th 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 through their art.

Open to students in grades K-6 across Texas, the contest motivates thousands of young artists each year. Only one entry per student is allowed, and all entries must
have a completed parental release form taped to the back. Parental release forms
may be printed from the Land Office website located at TexasAdoptABeach.org. Each
contest entry must be postmarked by March 1, 2017.

Artwork must be displayed on a plain sheet of white 8 ½-inches by 11-inch paper
and can be in any medium except computer generated. Three-dimensional art or
artwork displaying logos, product brands and/or store names is ineligible. Students
are encouraged to color copy their artwork prior to sending it in because all artwork
submitted becomes property of the Texas General Land Office and cannot be returned.
This year's contest sponsors are Royal Caribbean International, United Airlines,
Schlitterbahn Waterparks, the Texas State Aquarium and the Houston Zoo.

For more information and contest guidelines on the "Treasures of the Texas Coast"
2017 Children's Art Contest, please contact the General Land Office at 1-877-
TXCOAST or visit our website at TexasAdoptABeach.org. Like us on Facebook
at Facebook.com/TexasAdoptABeach or follow us on Twitter @TXAdoptABeach.

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