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KDOT announces aviation art contest winners

TOPEKA – One of the nine winning entries in the Kansas Department of Transportation’s 2023 Aviation Art Contest has won at the national level and now moves to international competition.

Elly Han, 13, of Altamont and a student at Altamont Grade School, placed first in the Intermediate Category of the annual National Association of State Aviation art contest. National winners were announced on March 14. Elly’s artwork and that of other national winners has been submitted for the 2023 International Aviation Art Contest, which will be judged in June by the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale.

Elly’s entry had finished second in her age division in the Kansas competition, the first-place state winner being her brother, Daniel Han.

The KDOT Aviation Art Contest, as co-sponsored by the Kansas Commission on Aerospace Education (KCAE), is designed to challenge young people to use creative expression through art to illustrate the importance of aviation. The theme for this year’s contest was “Air Sports & the Environment.”

Kansas artists ages 6-17 were divided in three age categories. The nine first- through third-place state winners received \$150 to \$250 Science Technology Engineering Art and Math prizes from the KCAE. Each of the Kansas first-place winners and the state’s national winner also received a drone from KCAE.

An award ceremony will take place on Thursday, March 30, in the Governor’s office at the Capitol to recognize the Kansas winners. The winners will meet Governor Laura Kelly and Acting Transportation Secretary Calvin Reed before touring the Capitol.

“With hundreds of entrants from across the state, it’s obvious the passion for aviation still beats loud in the hearts of Kansas’ young people,” said Bob Brock, KDOT Director of Aviation.

2023 Kansas Aviation Art Contest winners by age category:

Junior

First Place: Harper Nelson, Ewalt Elementary, **Augusta**

Second Place: Preston Amerine, home school, **Derby**

Third Place: Ayla Grace Amerine, home school, **Derby**

Intermediate

First Place: Keonhee (Daniel) Han, Altamont Grade School, **Altamont**

Second Place: Jihyeon (Elly) Han, Altamont Grade School, **Altamont**

Third Place: Stuart Wesson Carver, Solomon Junior High School, **Solomon**

Senior

First Place: Riley Olauson, home school, **Hiawatha**

Second Place: Brenden Cook, Hoxie High School, **Hoxie**

Third Place: Avery Mauck, Hoxie High School, **Hoxie**

For more information on the national aviation contest, click [here](#), and for details on the international aviation contest, click [here](#).

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