

Farmers Insurance to Award Academic Scholarships to Winners of the Young Americanos Photo Contest

Photos to be Exhibited at the International Museum of Art & Science in McAllen

PRNewswire

Farmers Insurance will award more than \$6,000 in academic scholarships to 35 local student winners of the Farmers Insurance Young Americanos Youth Photography Competition at a special ceremony this morning at 10:30 a.m. at the International Museum of Art & Science, 1900 Nolana in McAllen. The winners will receive cash awards ranging \$100 for the elementary school winners to \$1,000 for the Grand Prize winner.

The Farmers Insurance Young Americanos Photography Competition, which was held from September 1 through November 6, encouraged students from kindergarten through the 12th grade to photograph Latino Life in the Rio Grande Valley. The photo contest was held in partnership with the International Museum of Art & Science, which has also agreed to display the winning photographs as a special exhibition that will run through March 16, 2003.

Receiving the \$1,000 Grand Prize cash scholarship will be Courtney Bess, an eighth-grade student at De Leon Middle School in McAllen. Bess' winning photo shows a young girl competing in a horseback riding competition.

Most of the student winners represent local communities such as McAllen, Pharr, and Edinburg but winners also came from as far away as Brownsville, Laredo and Georgetown. Farmers Insurance will provide over \$6,000 in cash scholarships and other prizes to the winners. The photographs will also be available for viewing at the award-winning website www.youngamericanos.net beginning December 14.

"These photographs are outstanding. The students have truly captured what Latino life is like in the Rio Grande Valley," said John Hageman, vice president and state executive director for Farmers Insurance. "Every student, their families and their teachers should be proud of the students' accomplishments."

The Farmers Insurance Young Americanos Youth Photography Competition was developed by Farmers as a companion piece to Americanos: Latino Life in the United States, a critically-acclaimed photography exhibition, jointly produced by the Smithsonian Institution and actor/activist Edward James Olmos, which was recently on exhibition at the International Museum of Art & Science. Farmers is a national sponsor of the Americanos exhibition which is currently touring cities across the United States through 2004.

Farmers Insurance Group of Companies(R) is the nation's third-largest Personal Lines Property & Casualty insurance group. Headquartered in Los Angeles and doing business in 41 states, the insurers comprising the Farmers Insurance Group of Companies provide Homeowners, Auto, Business, Life insurance and financial services to more than 10 million households through 17,000 exclusive and independent agents and district managers. For more information about Farmers, visit our Web site at www.farmers.com .

Following is a list of all the winners and their school affiliations.

GRAND PRIZE WINNER

Courtney	Bess	De Leon Middle School
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HIGH SCHOOL WINNERS

Samantha	Barnett	McAllen Memorial High School
Erika	Cantu	James Nikki Rowe High School
Jose	Davila	Mission High School
Chanel	Hernandez	Mission High School
Gabriel	Hernandez	Mission High School
Crystal	Luera	Roma High School

MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNERS

Bianca	Martinez	St. Joseph Academy
Devin	Oliveira	St. Joseph Academy
Amanda	Padilla	St. Joseph Academy
Daniella	Tellam	St. Joseph Academy
Paloma	Vazquez	St. Joseph Academy
Inigo	Vigil	St. Joseph Academy

K-6th GRADE WINNERS

Juan	Alaniz	Jose de Escandon Elementary
Alejandro	Castillo	Bonham Elementary

Cristina	Garza	Clark Middle School
Robert	Garza	N.L. Trevino Elementary
Tommie	Harris	Rayburn Elementary
Justin	Martinez	De La Vina Elementary
Sean	McBryde	Cooper Elementary
Ernesto	Rangel	Wilson Elementary
Flor	Salinas	William Travis Elementary
Lizbeth	Trevino	De La Vina Elementary
Lauren	Zuniga	De La Vina Elementary
Leslie	Zuniga	De La Vina Elementary

HONORABLE MENTION WINNERS

Joselyn	Baize	Edinburg High School
Ashley	Bose	Cathey Middle School
Luis	Cardenas	St. Joseph Academy
Carlos	Davila	Mission High School
Ernie	Pena	Edinburg High School
Victoria	Ponce	N. L. Trevino Elementary
Abram	Realista	De La Vina Elementary
Celina	Tafolla	South Palm Gardens High School
Sylvia	Vargas	Clark Middle School
Jaysonn	Vel	Gonzalez Elementary

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SOURCE: Farmers Insurance Group

CONTACT: Luis Sahagun, cell, +1-323-691-6300, or Luisa Acosta-Franco, +1-323-932-3083, both of Farmers Insurance Group

Web site: <http://www.youngamericanos.net/>
<http://www.farmers.com/>

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