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News Release

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Winners in Nebraska Spirit Art Contest announced

LINCOLN – Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale and Nebraska.gov announced the six student winners of the 2009 Nebraska Spirit Art Contest. The winners will have their artwork featured on a downloadable screen saver for one year.

The winners are Michaela Keller of Valentine, Goose Creek School, kindergarten; Jon Keller of Valentine, Goose Creek School, first grade; Marissa Salber of Omaha, St. Stephen the Martyr School, second grade; Kaila Avent of Hastings, Watson Elementary School, third grade; Nathaniel Kiolbasa of Juniata, Wallace #16 School, fourth grade; and Mackenzie Allen of Alliance, St. Agnes Academy, fifth grade.

Gale and Nebraska.gov, the state's Web site, sponsored the contest for students to showcase their knowledge of Nebraska and its history. The winners were determined through online voting that involved five finalists from each grade.

The downloadable screen saver featuring the winning artwork is available at www.nebraska.gov/contest.

On June 5, the winners and their families were hosted to a day of activities in Lincoln, including a ceremony with Gale and Gov. Dave Heineman, a tour of the State Capitol, a luncheon at the Governor's Mansion and an outing at the Lincoln Children's Zoo.

"We're pleased that we have the opportunity to show the world the winners' creative artwork that represents their proud Nebraska spirit," Gale said.

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