

January 18, 2006

Dear Art or Science Educator,

The *Oregon Garden Earth Day poster contest* has been a successful and fun event for the past six years. We would like to invite your students or your classroom to participate in this year's poster contest to help celebrate and learn about the Earth and to help promote Earth Day 2006. Following the national Earth Day Network's new environmental campaign, our theme this year is "**climate solutions**", and an introductory description of what this theme entails is enclosed to help you begin the conversation with your students.

This contest is open to students in all K-12 programs. The Earth Day Committee will choose one Grand Prize winner for our official 2006 Earth Day poster that will be used to advertise our **Earth Day Celebration at The Oregon Garden on Saturday, April 22, 2006 from 10 am to 4 pm, sponsored by Marion County Environmental Services**. We will display all poster entries at the event and also award a First Place Prize to one student in each of these categories: grades K-3; grades 4-7; grades 8-12. The contest guidelines are enclosed, and **all poster entries must be postmarked by Friday, March 10, 2006**. Please address entries to:

Earth Day Committee
The Oregon Garden
P. O. Box 155
Silverton, OR 97381

Our Earth Day Celebration is a fun-filled day packed with music, food, exhibits, and hands-on learning activities for children and adults. For example, last year, Silverton Highschool students led 'behind-the-scenes' tours of The Garden's lower wetlands, and this year there will be a 'trash-to-treasure' contest for sculpture made with recycled materials. Join us for environmentally themed lectures and demonstrations by Oregon experts, or kick up your heels with Bush Elementary's Marimba Band. For this one special day, there will be *no admission charge* to either the Event or The Garden. All expenses for the day are covered by generous sponsorships from Marion County Public Works and others. For more details on the Event, go to www.oregongarden.org. Come support environmental stewardship while enjoying spring blooming at The Oregon Garden.

If you have any questions regarding this contest or other Earth Day activities, please contact Renee Stoops at The Oregon Garden, 503-874-8268.

Sincerely,

Renee Stoops
Earth Day Coordinator