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## **Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority Announces Top 12 waterSmart waterArt Finalists**

*– Cobb, Paulding students featured in artists' exhibition and 2016 waterSmart calendar –*

**Marietta, Ga. (Nov. 16, 2015)** – Cobb and Paulding County middle school students are making a splash in the sixth annual visual arts contest, *waterSmart waterArt* – a creative competition that merges students' artistic talents with their passion for water conservation. The waterSmart waterArt contest is a collaborative program of Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA), Cobb County Water System and Paulding County Water System.

More than 120 students from 15 schools submitted artwork, which was judged by a panel of local artists and conservationists on artistic ability, water relevance and creativity.

The top 12 entries and two honorable mentions will be featured in the 2016 *waterSmart waterArt* calendar that will be distributed throughout metro Atlanta. This year's finalists represent middle school students in both Cobb and Paulding counties, including:

- Aaliyah Kelley – Austin Middle School
- Aleina Khan – Palmer Middle School
- Ally Horn – Lovinggood Middle School
- Casey Hobbs – Tapp Middle School
- Camille Prickett – Lovinggood Middle School
- Isabella Salazar – Floyd Middle School
- Jamie Moon – Austin Middle School
- Jennifer Rios – Floyd Middle School
- Katherine Vu – Lovinggood Middle School
- Kyle Haymer – Pine Mountain Middle School
- Susan Herrera – Daniell Middle School
- Toan Nguyen – East Cobb Middle School
- Madison Weyenberg – Lovinggood Middle School – Honorable Mention
- Michelle Jones – Daniell Middle School – Honorable Mention

The students will be recognized at the calendar unveiling and winners' reception on Nov. 18 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at The Art Station – Big Shanty, where all participants' submissions are currently on display.

"Each year we are continually impressed by the positive and thoughtful messages about the value of water shown through the students' artwork," says Becky Mixon, waterSmart program director. "We are incredibly proud of our top 12 winners, honorable mentions and all participants."

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“This year’s entries clearly and creatively demonstrated the importance of water conservation for future generations,” says Kathy Nguyen, senior project manager for the Cobb County Water System. “We look forward to using the 2016 waterSmart calendar to share that knowledge with our community.”

To get involved with future waterSmart programs, go to [www.waterSmart.net](http://www.waterSmart.net).

**About waterSmart**

The waterSmart<sup>SM</sup> program was initiated by the CCMWA in 2000 to educate its service area residents of all ages about the importance of indoor and outdoor water conservation, and to help encourage sustainable, year-round conservation, regardless of climate conditions. The CCMWA is in its 15th year of providing the waterSmart program to the community. For more information on water conservation and waterSmart, visit [www.waterSmart.net](http://www.waterSmart.net).

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