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Harrold Youth Center hosts art contest

Harrold Youth Center youth enter a national arts contest presented by Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

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Fort Leavenworth youth participating in programs at Harrold Youth Center have entered a national arts contest presented by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and sponsored by Sony Electronics. Student submissions were exhibited and judged on Jan. 19 at the youth center.

Erika Jenkins-Moss, technology lab lead, said Harrold Youth Center conducts year round art programs that revolve around activities such as classes, demonstrations, field trips, guest lectures and special events. Jenkins-Moss said this is the first year youths have dedicated time to plan and create their artwork to enter the contest.

“The (Boys and Girls Clubs of America) contest allows our students to show where their creative passions are. We have entries in photography, filmmaking, monochromatic and multicolored drawing, pastels, mixed media, oil and acrylic, and video game design,” Jenkins-Moss said. “We submit entries to the BGCA website and mail a physical copy to our regional host site.”

The purpose of the contest is to give students an idea of what it takes to be a creative in the arts. Students competed by submitting their projects in up to 18 different contest categories. Ranging in age categories of 10-12 years old, 13-15 years old and 16-18 years old, students created works that were judged locally. Regional winners have their creations sent to Boys and Girls Clubs of America to compete nationally.

Another primary purpose of the contest is to encourage students to start developing the skills needed for these and many other progressive careers. Motivated to learn about most areas that involve technology, Kevin Fall, a seventh-grade student at Patton Junior High School, said he has enjoyed learning about photography. Fall said that photography is a creative activity much like playing trumpet in the band.

“I enjoy band at school and have been playing music since the sixth grade. Music is similar to these types of art,” Fall said. “I started using cameras here at the youth center. I like how the camera can zoom in and then zoom out to take wide shots to create different views of a subject.”

Namari Moss, daughter of Jenkins-Moss and an eighth-grader at Patton, created and submitted an original short horror film on video titled “The Watcher.” Moss said she was inspired about the idea of making a movie when youth center staff showed one of the contest films from a previous year.

“Our group assumed different roles according to our individual skills. One person wrote the script, one operated the camera, and I was one of the actors,” Moss said. “We also chose to shoot in black and white because we thought those type of films seem to have the most dramatic impact and we thought black and white would be more frightening to watch.”

Jenkins-Moss said the local exhibit showcased student work that will be competing to be submitted for regional judging in Texas. Community members with experience in photography, art, graphic design and film were invited to serve as judges.

“Once we tally the scoring by the judges and determine the artwork from each category that represents Harrold Youth Center, that artwork is then sent to our regional host in Texas,” Jenkins-Moss said. “Regional winners automatically advance to the national competition. And, the competition website notifies us if any of our students are winners.”

Harrold Youth Center, 45 Biddle Blvd., offers a 9,000-square-foot multi-purpose gym, a dance studio, technology lab and homework center, a television lounge and a game room. The center sponsors age-appropriate activities as well as youth leadership and development programs. Center membership is required for participation in activities. Holiday and summer camps are offered for youth in grades 6-9 and special teen programs and hours are available.

See www.ftleavenworthlamp.com for a list of local winners who will compete at the regional level.



PHOTO/ PRUDENCE SIEBERT, FORT LEAVENWORTH LAMP

Patrice Vega, eighth-grader at Patton Junior High School, shows fellow Patton eighth-grader Cheyenne Martin the photos she took, including two black-and-white images of life in on-post housing, while looking at a photography exhibit Jan. 19 at Harrold Youth Center. Several Fort Leavenworth youth have photos, art and video entered in the Boys and Girls Clubs of America Digital Arts Festivals Contest. Artwork chosen by local judges is being sent forward for regional judging. Photo by Prudence Siebert/Fort Leavenworth Lamp