



The Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) has selected its winners for the 2011 Radon Poster Contest. The local winners will now advance to the Nebraska Poster Contest to compete for a chance to be selected the state winner, and a chance at a trip to Washington D.C.

The judging for the local contest was done at McCook Community College with the help of art instructor Rick Johnson and chemistry instructor Jim Garretson.

All the winners were from Perkins County Middle School with Josie Osler, a seventh grader, selected as the first place winner with her poster, "What In The World Is Radon?" and receives an Apple i-pod with \$25 in i-tunes.

Second Place went to Josie's older sister Amanda who is an eighth grader, with her poster titled, "What is Radon?" and took home a \$75 dollar gift card.

Taking home a \$50 gift card to the Sports Shoppe was Natasha Thomas' third place poster "What is Radon?"

"There were fewer schools participating this year but the number of posters entered more than tripled," said Shane Smith, the Environmental health coordinator for SWNPHD. "All of the kids did a great job with the posters and messages they came up with about Radon. My hope is that while working on their posters the kids were able to share with their families the dangers of Radon and how to know if this dangerous gas is present in their homes."

All of the posters created will be on display during Radon Action Month in January.

Students who participated came from Perkins County Middle School in Madrid, Central Elementary in McCook, and Hayes Center High School in Hayes Center.

The goal of this contest was to raise awareness about the dangers of Radon and SWNPHD was pleased to once again sponsor this contest.

Families wanting to learn more about radon and how they can protect their homes from this “silent” killer can contact Shane Smith at 308-345-4223, or email [envhealth@swhealthdept.com](mailto:envhealth@swhealthdept.com). The website [www.swhealthdept.com](http://www.swhealthdept.com) also has information.

Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department serves Chase, Dundy, Hayes, Hitchcock, Frontier, Furnas, Perkins and Red Willow counties.