

Special Guest *Commissioner's Corner*



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I am excited to announce that entries for the 33rd annual Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest are now being accepted. Second through

twelfth grade students attending public, independent, charter or parochial schools, and those who are home-schooled, in New York City and in the East and West of Hudson watersheds, are invited to create original art and compose poetry that reflects an appreciation for New York's shared water resources.

Entries will be accepted [online](#) until March 1, 2019. Last year, about 1,300 New York City and watershed students (grades 2–12) representing 75 schools submitted either original poems or artwork about New York's water resources. [Click here](#) to see a gallery of various winning entries from 2018. Students can submit poems and artwork including paintings, collages, three-dimensional models, photography, animation, and videos of dance performances, public service announcements, and songs based on five central themes: water, the drinking water system, wastewater treatment, harbor water quality, and stewardship/climate change.

DEP's Water Resources Art and Poetry program helps raise awareness about the importance of clean, high-quality drinking water, and what it takes to maintain New York City's water supply and wastewater treatment systems. I'd like to thank BPAC Director of Education **Kim Estes-Fradis** and her team for once again putting together this successful contest, which will certainly inspire the next generation of environmental stewards. I encourage all young New Yorkers to use their artistic abilities to learn about and express the importance of protecting our environment and water resources.



Spotlight on Safety

Winter Driving Reminders

Winter weather can create dangerous roadway conditions that even experienced motorists can have trouble driving through. In fact, snow and ice-related accidents cause more than 1,300 deaths and more than 116,800 injuries each year, according to the U.S Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration).

The leading cause of winter accidents are the following:

- driving too fast for the weather.
- windows or mirrors obscured with snow, ice, or fog

- being in a rush
- following vehicles too closely
- stopping in a travel lane
- not knowing your brakes
 - ABS—steady hard pressure
 - Non-ABS—pump brakes slowly
- fast acceleration

Make sure you are familiar with the equipment and contact your supervisor or Bureau EHS if you have questions or concerns. For more information on safe winter driving check out AAA's "[How to Go on Ice and Snow](#)."

At DEP, everyone is responsible for safety. If you or anyone on your team is concerned about your working conditions, it's okay to ask your supervisor or your bureau's EHS liaison how they can help. If you've still got questions, you can call the EHS Employee Concerns Hotline. It's DEP's responsibility to acknowledge and fix unsafe situations, procedures, and practices. With your help, we'll not only get the job done, we'll make it safer for ourselves, our coworkers, our families, and our city. CALL (800) 897-9677. HELP IS ON THE WAY.

