



Contest Coordinator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**12 FINALISTS SELECTED IN 27th ANNUAL “CARING FOR THE KENAI”
COMPETITION...**

Kenai, March 13th, 2017– With high schools from Homer to Seward participating in this year’s Caring for the Kenai (CFK) environmental and disaster preparedness contest, a panel of eight judges from the professional community selected twelve Kenai Peninsula Borough high school students to compete for over \$28,000 in cash awards in the oral presentation phase of the CFK program sponsored by Tesoro.

From the nearly 400 entries electronically submitted in this year’s CFK, 120 were advanced to the semi-finalist round of judging. The CFK competition offers over \$8,000 in cash awards to the best twelve proposals addressing the prompt, “What can I do, invent, or create to better care for the environment on the Kenai Peninsula, or to improve the area’s preparedness for a natural disaster?” Participating schools this year included Voznesenka, Homer, Kenai, Nikiski, Soldotna High, Cook Inlet Academy, Soldotna Prep, Ninilchik and Seward.

“The District’s students greatly appreciate Tesoro’s generous sponsorship of this important annual event and all of the volunteers that make this educational partnership possible every year,” said Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Superintendent Sean Dusek.

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(CFK Finalists cont.)

“The opportunity that Caring for the Kenai offers our students to showcase their creativity and ingenuity is excellent,” added Dusek. The CFK educational partnership is part of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District science curriculum. This year \$20,000 will be awarded to participating schools thanks to a matching grant from, Kenai River Raven Lodge, ConocoPhillips, Peninsula Community Health Services and Hilcorp. The \$20,000 in CFK grants will be divided proportionately to participating schools based on where their students place in the final oral presentation competition to be held Thursday, April 20th at the KCHS Little Theatre, starting at 6:00pm.

In addition to the recognition and prizes that go to the 12 finalists each year, CFK’s Student Recognition award program continues to grow with over 15 local sponsors presenting special recognition awards to entries of the sponsor’s selection. Student recognition recipients will be announced in a Peninsula Clarion full page ad. The 12 CFK finalists will remain anonymous until after their oral presentations Thursday, April 20th.

CFK is being administered as part of the Challenger Learning Center of Alaska’s educational programs. Marnie Olcott CEO said, “Challenger is thrilled to be part of such a valuable program, for our students, teachers and communities. Challenger shares the vision of growing the program not only within Alaska, but on a national level; we look forward to a long, successful partnership.” This year’s CFK competition will be streamed live over the internet by Soldotna High School technology students and has been viewed in the past in countries such as Canada, Colombia, El Salvador, Peru, Germany, Greenland and Japan. The live feed, complete history and details of the CFK program are available at www.caringforthekenai.com or visit <https://www.facebook.com/caringForTheKenai.com>

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