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**Oregon Secretary of State**

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## Oregon Student Essays 2019 Web Exhibit

### About the 2019 Exhibit

Festivals and celebrations are important reflections of Oregon's cultural identity. And the theme of the 2019-2020 *Oregon Blue Book* is "Celebrating Oregon's Local Festivals." Therefore, the secretary of state encouraged Oregon students to participate in the third *Oregon Blue Book* essay contest by answering the 2019 essay question:

**What is your favorite local community celebration, festival, carnival, fiesta, or fair and why?**

Contestants were asked to limit their essays to about 350 words and to illustrate their essays with drawings. This exhibit features the six winning essays. The essays are displayed as written and are presented alphabetically.

Note: Some images have been tinted for exhibit purposes.



Zaylee Rose drew this jousting knight to illustrate his essay about the Shrewsbury Renaissance Faire.

## Essays

Baylee Fox

Drew Lovely

Cooper MacKenzie

Oscar Marksbury

Zaylee Rose

Emma Zuniga

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## Oregon Student Essays 2019 Web Exhibit

### Albany Northwest Art and Air Festival

Essay and drawing by **Baylee Fox**  
Mrs. Straub's Fifth Grade Class  
Oak Elementary School, Albany

#### Essay Drawing



A drawing by Baylee Fox shows some of the features of the Albany Northwest Art and Air Festival, including hot air balloons, food and craft booths and a reptile room.

#### Essay Text

##### Arts and Air Festival

Hot air balloons, concerts and lots and lots of art! Those are only some things that are at the Arts and Air festival in Albany, Oregon. In my opinion the Arts and Air festival is my favorite, let me tell you about it! The first thing you see when you get there is a stage in the water! That's where the singers perform. There's a morning performance, and a late night performance. It's very fun, this summer I went and saw the Goo Goo Dolls with my family.

The second thing at the Arts and Air festival is all the art stands. There's all kinds of jewelry, signs and paintings. Also at the Arts and Air festival is food and dessert stands. My favorite is the cotton candy and snow cones.

# Arts and Air Festival

Baylee Fox  
5th Grade  
Oak Elementary  
Albany, OR 97322

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One of the best and final things there is the hot air balloons!!! When it gets dark people blow up the hot air balloons and put on a show! It's called a Nightglow, the next morning people go up in the hot air balloons and people watch them fly by.

That's most the things at the Arts and Air festival. You should go next year!

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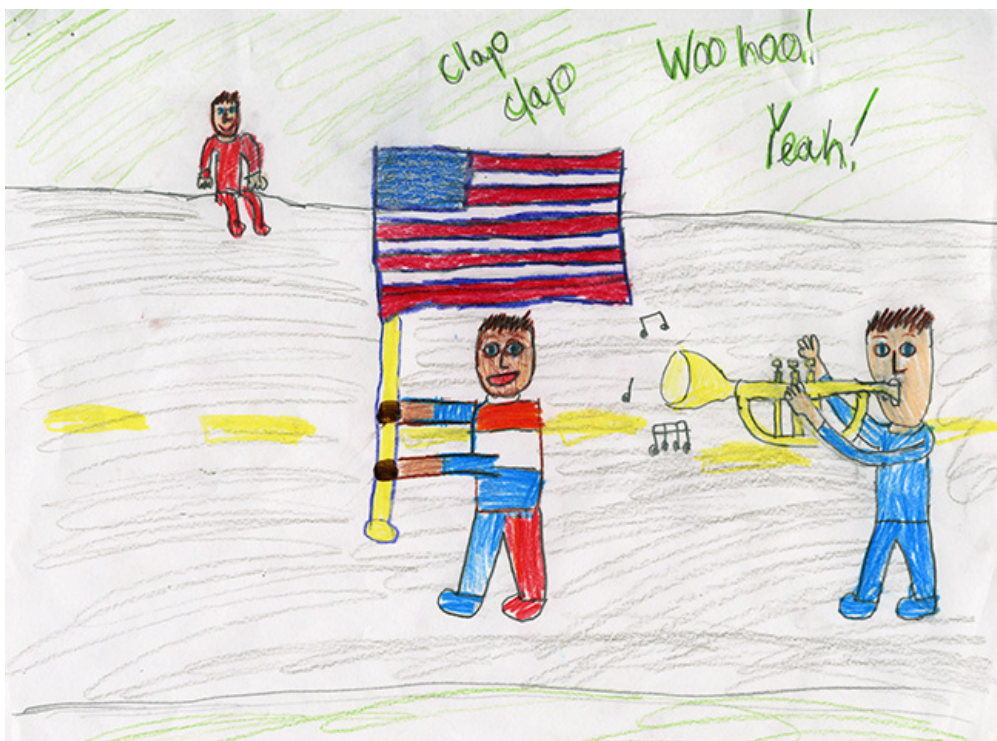
### Monmouth Independence Day Parade

Essay and drawing by **Drew Lovely**

Mrs. Haux's Fifth Grade Class

Harritt Elementary School, Salem

### Essay Drawing



A drawing by Drew Lovely shows a marching band walking down a Monmouth street during the annual Independence Day Parade.

### Essay Text

“Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.”

*Vincent Van Gogh*

Though it may not seem so, this quote has a lot in common with my favorite local celebration, the Independence Day Parade in Monmouth. If you read on, you can find out about the Fourth of July event, as well as the quote. So I advise you to do so.

I remember the first time I went to the parade, It's in Monmouth, and back then, the twenty five minute drive from Salem, felt like a million years to me. But once we got there, me and my family walked

towards Monmouth Ave, where the parade was, passing by a line of old Hot Rods and Volkswagens people had put there to show. When we got there, we sat down on the sidewalk and waited for the show to start. I recall being amazed, simply dumbfounded when the parade started. It was incredible or me to see all the groups, schools, departments, companies and individual people who all came together to create one big production. Do you see how Mr. Van Gogh is coming in now?

Every year after that we came back. If anything, the event just got better and better over the years. But one thing remained the same. Every single year, we would walk past the old cars on our way to our seats. It kind of became a tradition.

Well, there you have it. That is my favorite local celebration. I hope you enjoyed reading this. I also hope you will try out this amazing event, because what would life be if we didn't have any courage to attempt anything? (More Van Gogh)

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## Oregon Student Essays 2019 Web Exhibit

### Owyhee County Fair in Homedale, Idaho

Essay and drawing by **Cooper Mackenzie**

Ms. Green's Fourth Grade Class

Rockville School, Jordan Valley Area

### Essay Drawing



A drawing by Cooper Mackenzie shows a county fair judge awarding a ribbon to Cooper and his pig, Molly, at the Owyhee County Fair in Homedale, Idaho. Because of distances, Rockville School 4-H members have a choice of participating in the Malheur County Fair in Ontario or the Owyhee County Fair.

### Essay Text

I like fair a lot. You can show different animals. I showed a pig. I loved it because I had a great time! My pigs' names were Molly and Joe. I had my pigs for almost a year. My pigs were like friends to me. It was hard to sell Molly. I mean I did not like to feed them, but they were funny. At feeding time they ran around in circles. Showing my pig was awesome! I got third for juniors.

There are a lot of rides at the fair. On one you go down a slide really fast. The bungee jumping was popular. You could do back flips to.

You see a lot of friends there. Some show animals and some do not. The food is so good. Some is not good for you, some is. Like the snow cones are not good for you, but they sure taste good on a hot summer day.

I love fair!

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## Oregon Student Essays 2019 Web Exhibit

### McMinnville McMenamins UFO Festival

Essay and drawing by **Oscar Marksbury**  
Theresa McKeegan's Fifth Grade TAG Class  
Memorial Elementary School, McMinnville

### Essay Drawing





A drawing by Oscar Marksbury shows aliens taking over the streets during the McMinnville UFO Festival. The McMinnville festival celebrates unidentified flying objects with a parade, speakers, music and “additional otherworldly events.”

## Essay Text

### Alien Days

About 50 years ago, a U.F.O. was spotted in a farmer's backyard. This sighting was the only one not proved to be something else by the government. Now, in McMinnville, Oregon, we have a huge celebration for the day the U.F.O. was seen.

First, the costumes are amazing. You can see from fuzzy, cute creatures to big, bad Star Wars aliens. People are also really creative with their costumes. They can duct tape their clothes, wrap themselves in ribbons and wear floppy ears, or other types of things. The costumes are awesome!

Next, the floats are all very different. There's limos from dentists offices and aliens from the library on a bookmobile covered in slime. Its so cool to see so many different things. There's even huge statues, or at least big alien-shaped balloons. Don't you think the floats are so cool? Lastly, people go because it's fun and they go because they believe it's real. People listen to lectures about space life and other things like that. You never know why they come. Do you believe in aliens or not?

Alien Days is fun. The floats, costumes, and unanswered questions all help it be that way. I hope you enjoy Alien Days.

Oscar Marksbury Page

10/9/18

Writing

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## Oregon Student Essays 2019 Web Exhibit

### Kings Valley Shrewsbury Renaissance Faire

Essay and drawing by **Zaylee Rose**  
Lynette Gotlieb's Fifth Grade Class  
Ashbrook Independent School, Corvallis

#### Essay Drawing



A drawing by Zaylee Rose shows a knight in armor jousting at the Shrewsbury Renaissance Faire.

#### Essay Text

Shrewsbury Renaissance Fair, Kings Valley

I absolutely love the Shrewsbury Renaissance Fair. It's my favorite renaissance fair I have ever been to, and I've been to five different renaissance fairs!

The reason I love The Shrewsbury Renaissance Fair is because number one: real jousting! Eeeee! Number two: It is one of the only places where you can go to learn about the past, in a really fun way instead of starving yourself out in the middle of the woods. Another reason why I love this fair so, so much is because it always has fun things and shows going on like: juggling, violin playing, jousting, bow and arrows on horse back (which is one of my personal favorites), and pirates singing! Oh, and all of those things r on different stages all over the fair.

Well I really love the Shrewsbury Renaissance Fair, and I really hope you will visit it, because I guarantee you will have fun!

Shrewsbury Renaissance Fair  
Kings Valley Sep. 15-16 2018

By, Zaylee Rose

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## Oregon Student Essays 2019 Web Exhibit

### Salem World Beat Festival

Essay and drawing by **Emma Zuniga**

Mrs. Haux's Fifth Grade Class

Harritt Elementary School, Salem

### Essay Drawing



A drawing by Emma Zuniga shows a globe representing the Salem World Beat Festival.

### Essay Text

It all started in 1998 at Riverfront Park, in Salem Oregon. Or as the children of this time call it, the Carousel. Wouldn't it be amazing if there was a festival that celebrated all our different cultures? Well you're in luck, there is a festival that's called the World Beat Festival and it celebrates all the cool differences, cultures and traditions of our ancestors.

This festival was created by two moms named Mona Hayes and Kathleen Fish. They both thought it was important that children learned about different cultures around the world. So they both sat down and thought, until coming up with an idea to bring everyone that wanted to share their culture with the next generation in a giant festival named World Beat Festival where they could share. This festival has been going on for just about 21 years now and still counting.

Some examples of the cultural festivities that you can experience at this festival are Native dances, listening to cultural songs, cooking and eating traditional foods and so much more. There is also a children's parade where children not only learn about their culture but other children's cultures as well. While you are walking around the festival you get to see, taste, feel an experience other wonderful cultures.

If you've never been to the World Beat Festival in Salem Oregon, think about going. I know it will be a wonderful experience to get to learn about diverse cultures in a fun and exciting atmosphere. Fun fact, did you know that there are more than 70 cultures that go to the World Beat Festival to share their culture and stories with others. World Beat is a weekend long event and takes place between June and July of each year at Salem's Riverfront Park. So, if you're not doing anything during the festival time, go to Riverfront Park and learn about different cultures and more about your own!

End of Exhibit