



## U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Region 7 - Alaska

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Anchorage, Alaska 99503

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**News**

12-15

April 19, 2012

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### Youth Invited to “Connect, Create and Celebrate”

This year the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is launching the “Get to Know Contest” for the first time across the United States. The goal of the contest is to engage the power of art to help youth feel more connected with nature. Youth, 19 and under, are eligible to enter the contest until July 16 by submitting original works of art, writing, photography, video, or music inspired by their natural world. We invite all youth to Connect...Create...and Celebrate with the Get to Know Contest.

Founded by Canadian wildlife artist Robert Bateman, the Get to Know Contest launched in Canada in 2000 to encourage youth to get outdoors and get to know their neighbors of other species. Bateman believes that having students learn local species’ names and characteristics will create increased awareness and understanding of wildlife.

Over the past twelve years, hundreds of thousands of young Canadians have participated. In 2009, the Get to Know Contest was launched in California with the support of the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Wildlife Federation. After two very successful years, the contest is launching nationally across the U.S. this year.

The Get to Know Program, with the support of several national partners, are hosting a series of events throughout April and May to kick off the contest. Events are being held in Washington D.C, Atlanta, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Seattle, Anchorage, and Morrison (Tennessee). **The Anchorage event will be held Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup> during the Anchorage Kids Day event at the Dena’ina Convention Center from 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.**

In addition to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, partners of the contest in the United States are the U.S. Forest Service, National Wildlife Federation, National Recreation and Park Association, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Wildlife Habitat Council, Wildlife Forever, Outdoor Afro and the Get to Know Program.

Art, writing, photography, video, and music entries can be submitted online at <http://www.get-to-know.org/contest/us/> between now and July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012. More information about the contest or Get to Know Program is available by contacting Mary Krupa-Clark at [mclark@gettoknow.ca](mailto:mclark@gettoknow.ca), (250) 980-3969.

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit*

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