

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Christmas to Come Early for One Wyoming Youth Student to Be Selected on Jackson Town Square to Help Light Capitol Christmas Tree

Jackson, Wyoming – Christmas will come early for a Wyoming student this week when Jackson Mayor Mark Barron selects one lucky child to travel to Washington, DC to help the Speaker of the House of Representatives light the 2010 Capitol Christmas Tree being gifted by the state of Wyoming.

Mayor Barron, joined by a representative of JH AIR, will randomly select one Wyoming student who provided an ornament for the Capitol Christmas Tree to win a free trip to Washington, DC to participate in the official lighting ceremony. The drawing will take place Wednesday, October 27 at 2 p.m. on the Jackson Town Square. More than 600 Wyoming students submitted multiple ornaments to help decorate the Cowboy State's tree.

"It is a time honored tradition for one lucky child from the state of origin to be selected to light the Capitol Christmas Tree with the Speaker of the House in front of dignitaries, elected officials and thousands of onlookers," said U.S Capitol Christmas Tree Coordinator Mary Cernicek. "On Wednesday, we'll select a Wyoming boy or girl to represent the Cowboy State in Washington, DC and light up Wyoming's gift to our nation's capital."

The US Forest Service called on students from across Wyoming to submit handmade ornaments to adorn the Capitol Christmas Tree, also known as "The People's Tree." More than 600 students submitted ornaments and applications to travel to DC. The winning youth will receive roundtrip airfare for themselves and a guardian to attend the December 7 lighting ceremony, courtesy of Delta Air Lines.

For the first time, the state of Wyoming will be providing the U.S. Capitol with a 67-foot tree as well as 75 accompanying trees to be displayed throughout the Capitol complex. As part of this gift, the citizens of Wyoming have made and donated over 5,000 ornaments to adorn the trees. Ornaments have been donated from individuals as well as schools, civic clubs, church groups and various community organizations throughout the state.

ABOUT THE CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE PROJECT

The Bridger-Teton National Forest, at the request of Senator John Barrasso, is leading the State of Wyoming in the delivery of the Capitol Christmas Tree for 2010.

The Capitol Christmas Tree will grace the west front lawn of the U.S. Capitol in December 2010. The Architect of the U.S. Capitol has already selected a 67-foot Engelmann spruce from the Bridger-Teton National Forest which will be cut, loaded, covered and prepped for travel in November to Washington, D.C.

In mid-November, the tree will be toured across the state of Wyoming before heading east to the U.S. Capitol. In late November, the tree will be delivered to the U.S. Capitol, where it will be lowered into a 5-foot deep hole, strung with lights, and decorated with thousands of handcrafted ornaments made by Wyomingites from across the State. In December, the Speaker of the House, along with one Wyoming student, will light the tree and showcase Wyoming's historical, cultural and natural beauty.

Through the holiday season, the tree will be lit at dusk, where it will be enjoyed by people from across world. The theme of Wyoming's tree is "Wyoming-Forever West."

For more information on the Capitol Christmas Tree for 2010, please visit www.capitolchristmastree2010.org, contact CapitolChristmasTree2010@gmail.com, or call Mary Cernicek at (307) 739-5564.

Follow the Capitol Christmas Tree on Twitter at: www.twitter.com/BridgerTetonNF

And Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Capitol-Christmas-Tree-2010/104904166232147>