

NEWS RELEASE

**USDA Forest Service
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Fairview Youth Selected to Light U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree **Student Who Created Ornament Wins Free Trip to Washington, DC to Light Wyoming's Tree**

Jackson, Wyoming – Daniel Sitter of Fairview became one of the luckiest kids in the nation today when he/she was randomly selected by Jackson Mayor Mark Barron 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.

Daniel Sitter's name was drawn from more than 1000 Wyoming students who provided an ornament for the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree when Mayor Barron pulled from a large red bag on the Jackson Town Square Sitter's name to win a free trip to Washington, DC to participate in the official December 7th lighting ceremony.

"This is not only a great day for Daniel Sitter, but the entire Jackson and Wyoming community," said Mayor Barron. "The Town of Jackson is proud to support Wyoming's U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree Project and looks forward to celebrating with the rest of the Cowboy State throughout the next two months."

Students from across Wyoming created handmade ornaments to adorn the Capitol Christmas Tree, also known as "The People's Tree." More than 1000 students submitted ornaments and applications to travel to DC. Daniel Sitter and a parent or guardian will receive roundtrip airfare to attend the December 7 lighting ceremony, courtesy of Delta Air Lines.

Jerry Blann, Vice-President of JH AIR, spoke on behalf of Delta Air Lines today. He said, "Delta Air Lines is pleased to be able to send one lucky Wyoming student to Washington, DC for the once in a lifetime experience of lighting up the Capitol Christmas Tree. Delta is proud to be a partner in this historic event for the state of Wyoming as well as the entire nation."

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 nearly 6,000 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.

“We are delighted that Daniel Sitter will be representing Wyoming in Washington, DC at the official lighting ceremony in December,” said U.S Capitol Christmas Tree Coordinator Mary Cernicek. “This is a time honored tradition and we know that Daniel will make us proud.”

Attached is a photograph taken by photojournalist David Swift of today’s drawing.

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 Wyoming people 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>.