



KATE BROWN
Governor

October 25, 2018

Dear Charlie,

Thank you for participating in our U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree contest. I very much enjoyed hearing from you about Oregon's outdoors and why our state is so special. I know you put a lot of hard work into your entry! All of us in the Governor's Office are really impressed and hope you all continue to write and spend time outside.

More than 1,200 of your fellow fourth graders from across Oregon entered the contest and shared their favorite stories about spending time outdoors. I loved hearing from each of you—it reminded me of some of my favorite parts of our outdoors, like hiking in the Gorge, skiing Mount Hood, and seeing all the flowers bloom in spring after our rainy season.

With so many great entries, it was a challenge to choose a winner. I selected Brigette Harrington from Jackson Elementary in Hillsboro to represent our young outdoor adventurers. Don't forget, though, that you are all eligible to receive a free annual pass to America's parks, lands and waters and a free permit to cut your own Christmas Tree from an Oregon National Forest, both made possible through the [Every Kid in a Park](#) program. To learn more about this program go online with your parents to www.everykidinapark.gov.

Next month, we will all be following Oregon's tree as it travels from our very own Willamette National Forest to Washington, D.C. to serve as "The People's Tree" at the U.S. Capitol for the holiday season. I hope you will follow the journey with me. Thank you for helping celebrate this honor with us! Keep working hard, writing, and following your own trail. Your voice is so important here in Oregon and I value your time, commitment and effort.

Sincerely,

Governor Kate Brown