



NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD

NEWS RELEASE

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CENTRAL CITY ARTIST
WINS ART CONTEST; WORK TO
APPEAR ON AIR GUARD TANKER

RELEASED BY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LINCOLN, Neb. – A graduating high school artist was honored during a morning ceremony, May 12, when her artwork was selected to represent the community of Central City on the nose of a Nebraska Air National Guard tanker aircraft.

According to Joyful Roark, 17, the selection of her artwork, entitled “The Center Of It All,” to represent her community on an aircraft that will travel around the world was shocking to say the least.

“Wow,” said Roark shortly after the announcement at the Central City Middle School. “It’s amazing. It’s pretty cool to think about all the other people who will see it.”

“I’m really excited,” she added.

The Nebraska Air National Guard noseart program is the brainchild of Col. Steve Adams, commander of the 155th Air Refueling Wing. Adams said the program is designed to build world-wide awareness of the Nebraska communities that support the Air National Guard while recognizing the Airmen who come from those small towns.

Adams said that he hopes the program also helps build a larger state-wide awareness of the Nebraska Air National Guard and the mission it flies daily in support of national defense.

Central City was the first community to be selected for the new program in which students were challenged to conduct research on their community before designing a distinctive community logo that will be officially unveiled on the nose of a Nebraska Air Guard KC-135R Stratotanker in September. The aircraft will then be designated as “The City of Central City” for one year, after which a different community will be selected.

Over the course of its one year, Central City residents will receive information about where “their” aircraft has traveled during the past year. Additionally, Nebraska Air Guardsmen will be visiting local schools to discuss the national heritage of the countries the aircraft visits as well as the science and mathematics required to perform the mission the aircraft conducts.

Other finalists in the Central City competition were: 4th Place – Sarah Hunt, 10th Grade, Central City High School; 3rd Place – Zach Senkbile, 12th Grade, Central City High School; 2nd Place – Jessica Lynn Jensen, 8th Grade, Central City Middle School.

According to Roark, she initially was reluctant to enter the contest.

“At first I really didn’t want to do it,” said Roark, the daughter of Ron and Sandy Roark of Central City. “But my art teacher said I should.”

“I wasn’t thrilled about coming (to the final announcement),” said Roark, who will soon travel to Point Lookout, Mo., where she will study Art at College of the Ozarks. “I had no idea. I didn’t think I’d get anything.”

Roark’s colored pencil submission included such things as a buffalo, train and Central City skyline surrounded by a tree outline. Roark said that she wanted to capture a little bit of community history and present day information.

“What I wanted to do was to combine several different ideas that just represented Central City,” said Roark, a senior at Nebraska Christian School. “It took me probably three or four class periods.”

“(The artwork) was already in my head,” she said. “I just sat down and worked it out.”

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Note: Photos available upon request.