



CONSERVE WILDLIFE
FOUNDATION OF NEW JERSEY

Dear Teacher:

The Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ is proud to announce the 9th annual *Species on the Edge Art & Essay Contest*! The contest is a great way to engage your 5th graders and excite them into learning about New Jersey's over 70 species of endangered and threatened wildlife.

This statewide contest begins on October 1st, 2010 and closes on January 31st, 2011. It is open to all fifth graders in public, private, or home schools.

By creating works of art and writing essays about New Jersey's wildlife, the children work as wildlife biologists. They may not see the animal but they researched it – what it looks like, where it lives, and what are the threats to its future. Because of this contest, children have a better understanding of the wildlife and habitats of New Jersey and what we need to do to keep them in our future.

The enclosed contest kit contains the official rules and regulations, the essay questions, and an entry form, along with a flyer that lists the *species on the edge* of extinction in New Jersey. We've included optional lesson plans in the kit that will help students think about wildlife and habitat loss. We have also provided a list of *Additional Resources* to help you and your students in your research about New Jersey's rare wildlife.

Be sure to check out our new and improved website, www.conservewildlifenj.org, including our online field guide to NJ's endangered and threatened wildlife!

One winner will be chosen from each of New Jersey's 21 counties. The winners become ambassadors for wildlife and their artwork and essay are used throughout the state to raise awareness about NJ's endangered wildlife and their struggle for survival. Winning students and teachers will be invited to a special awards reception that will take place in Spring 2011. Winners will receive many great prizes, including an invitation to a special Eco-Tour of one of New Jersey's beautiful natural areas; a framed award certificate; and a ShopRite gift certificate.

We hope you will take the time to encourage your students to think about the natural world around them in New Jersey by taking part in the 2011 *Species on the Edge Art & Essay Contest*!

With best wishes,

Margaret O'Gorman
Executive Director

