VIRGINIA STUDENTS, TEACHERS GET A CHANCE TO MAKE HISTORY

Jamestown 400th Commemorative U.S. Stamp and Cachet Project Committee issues cachet challenge in time for America’s 400th Anniversary

Williamsburg, Va. — Students and visual arts teachers across Virginia have an opportunity to put their mark on history in time for America’s 400th Anniversary. Their challenge: Design the front of the official 400th Anniversary cachets, or decorative envelopes, commemorating Jamestown’s role in America’s development.

First-, second-, and third-place winners in each category will be chosen in time for America’s Anniversary Weekend in May 2007. The winners will be invited to an awards ceremony and reception at Jamestown Settlement.

Jamestown 400th Commemorative U.S. Stamp and Cachet Project Committee, a partner of Jamestown 2007 — the planners of America’s 400th Anniversary — sent informational packets, posters and cachet design criteria to approximately 3,000 schools throughout Virginia, inviting students and teachers to participate in the contest. Students and visual arts teachers at the commonwealth’s public and private K-12 schools, and visual arts education and graphic design students at Virginia colleges and universities are eligible to submit cachet designs for consideration and awards.

“The issuance of commemorative postage stamps and cachets will serve to increase awareness of Jamestown’s significant role in our history as the place where our traditions of representative government, free enterprise, rule of law and cultural diversity first took root,” said Dr. Ned Logan, program director of the Jamestown 400th Commemorative
U.S. Stamp and Cachet Project Committee. “What better way to mark our country’s quadricentennial than to have the country’s future — our youth — and their teachers design the official 400th anniversary cachet.”

Monetary awards up to $500 will be provided to winning cachet entries. In addition, winning cachet designs for three grade-based categories among K-12 students will be reproduced and presented as gifts to the winning students.

Winning entries among public and private visual arts schoolteachers, higher education visual arts education students and graphic design students will be made into cachets that will be offered for sale during 2007. Proceeds will help support educational endeavors of Historic Jamestowne, Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and other historic sites. The student cachets will not be made available for sale.

Participants must submit their entries to the Jamestown 400th Commemorative Postal Cachet Contest officials at P.O. Box 5171, Williamsburg, VA 23188 by 5 p.m. on Jan. 27, 2006.

Finalists will be notified by March 31, 2006. Their work will be exhibited next May at the 2006 World Stamp Exposition at the Washington, D.C. Convention Center. The designs also will tour the state through early 2007.

The project, initiated by the Williamsburg Stamp Society, is being conducted under the auspices of Jamestown 2007 and its partners — Historic Jamestowne, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Virginia Department of Education, and the Williamsburg U.S. Postal Service Customer Advisory Council. It is designed to coincide with the potential issuance of one or more U.S. postage stamps commemorating the 1607 founding of Jamestown, America’s first permanent English settlement. Talks are underway with the U.S. Postal Service regarding the issuance of commemorative stamps to be released during the anniversary weekend.

For more information, visit http://www.americas400thanniversary.com/special-stamps.cfm, or contact Cheryle C. Gardner, principal specialist of fine arts at the Virginia
Department of Education, at Cherry.Gardner@doe.virginia.gov.

Jamestown 2007, a sub-agency of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, is coordinating efforts to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Jamestown, the first English settlement in the Americas. Jamestown is also the site of the nation’s first representative, free enterprise and multi-cultural society. State, national and international commemorative events to salute these legacies begin in May 2006 and continue into 2008. Major corporate sponsors of America’s 400th Anniversary include Norfolk Southern Corporation, (NYSC: NSC) and Colonial Williamsburg. More information about the commemoration is available at www.americas400thanniversary.com.

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