Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) announces its fourth annual local Radon Poster Contest.

"Youth ages nine to fourteen that live within the Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department district are eligible to participate," explains Denise Ringenberg, Health Educator. These counties include: Chase, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Perkins and Red Willow. Four top winning posters are selected and forwarded on to the Nebraska state competition.

"Prizes are awarded to encourage youth participation. This year's prizes include a bicycle, $75 sports gift card, a bowling party for five and a mystery prize," states Ringenberg. Every participant will receive recognition.

Myra Stoney, Director of SWNPHD led the radon contest in 2011 that had 240 posters entered. "We were very proud that our local winner, Claire Moaliao, a seventh grader at Perkins County Middle School was the 2nd place winner at State," declares Stoney. "We liked her poster so well that we used it in our Radon marketing materials."

The goal of the contest is to raise awareness about the dangers of radon. As the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States, radon is not well known. It is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that enters homes and buildings through the soil and cannot be detected unless it is tested. In Nebraska, one out of every two homes tested has a high radon level (above 4.0 pCi/L).

Posters deadline is October 17th. For artwork submission forms, poster contest criteria and national information send an email educate@swhealth.ne.gov or call Denise Ringenberg at 308-345-4223. SWNPHD is located at 404 West 10th Street, McCook—one block north of Arby's. Past poster winners can be found on our web site www.swhealth.ne.gov. You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.