Poster contest set

Alaskan students can join in the state's Silver Anniversary celebration by designing posters in a "Alaska Means to Me" contest sponsored by SOHIO Alaska Petroleum Company.

The contest is open to all students in public or private schools in grades kindergarten through 12 and is being administered with the help of the local school districts. The contest asks simply that a student express artistically what Alaska means to him or her.

"We're not looking for technically perfect posters from the art students, but rather for an original and sincere expression of what Alaska means to an individual student," said Hugh Depland, director of public affairs for SOHIO. "The judges have been asked to reward emotion rather than expertise."

More than 150,000 blank poster entry forms have already been distributed to public and private schools throughout Alaska. The student population has been divided into five grade categories: kindergarten, grades 1-3, grades 4-6, grades 7-9 and grades 10-12.

There are four levels of competition: school winner, school district winner, regional winner and one final statewide winner in each category. Winners will receive prizes at all levels and the statewide winners will each receive a cash prize of \$1,000 as well as a personal computer for the winner's school.

Statewide winners will be chosen by a panel composed of former governors of Alaska.