

Victoria Torres
Pinellas
1st Place Junior

The Mangrove Habitat

I love nature,
from the biggest plant
to the smallest ant,
and every single creature.

Mullet slap the water top,
they do more than just flip flop.
They jump in threes, ones, and twos.
Why do they do it, how do they choose?

The yellow-crowned night-heron
is mysterious and secret,
unlike his fellow
the snowy white egret.

Patterned is a leopard frog
hiding in a dark, damp log.
Craning down, a salt marsh snake
is baiting for a fish to take.

Oysters need moisture,
mangroves like brackish.
Kingfishers are swifter,
and mud crabs are blackish.

Mangroves, what an ecosystem!
Take them out, and cataclysm.
Mangrove types are red, black, and white.
Mangroves are a beautiful sight!

Amazing nature, you've inspired me to be
a conservationist of the forest and sea.
Beauty needs protection from the mistakes of man.
I will do everything I possibly can.

Hayden Barr
Pinellas
2nd Place Junior

Squirrels

Scale the pine trees like it's nothing
Quick to move away from you
Under the oaks gathering acorns
In your attic chewing wires
Race across the power lines
Run the rails of the fences
Ear-piercing squeaks and scratches
Leap from tree to tree
Secretly spying on you

Alex Piscane
Duval
3rd Place Junior

The Love of Trees

Trees, trees, oh beautiful trees
You are home to all the bees
You have really colorful leaves
You give us oxygen so we can breathe
Plant more trees please.

Wesley Wood
Pinellas
Honorable Mention Junior

Mangrove Forest

Where the forest meets the ocean,
the walking trees thrive,
protecting the land and the young.

The oysters cling and clean the crystal clear water
and the young lemon sharks learn to hunt
in the jungle gym of the sea.

High up above, in the forest's trees,
the ibis birds breed
and their babies start to scream.

Gabriella Graff
Leon
Honorable Mention Junior

I Love the Woods

I walked through the woods.
I studied the trees.
I climbed as high as I could.
I looked at the beautiful leaves.
I heard the birds sing their wonderful song.
It is such an incredible thing.
What could possibly go wrong?
I love the woods.