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For Immediate Release

Jefferson City Youth Wins Bike at State Fair

Evanna Waller, a 12-year-old seventh grader from Jefferson City won a new bicycle and helmet in a raffle she entered during the state fair. Her name was drawn from hundreds of children who entered by completing a scavenger hunt in the Missouri Department of Transportation's Highway Gardens during the 10 days of the fair. Ravine St. Bicycle Shop in Fulton donated the bike.

Waller had to complete 10 questions about Missouri transportation and MoDOT programs by following clues to answers that were posted throughout the shady haven of the Highway Gardens. Some of the questions included:

Q: In 2006, what percent of those killed in Missouri traffic crashes were NOT wearing seat belts? A: 70 percent

Q: How long does it take a plastic milk container to decompose?

A: 1 million years

"It was fun walking around the gardens and helping my little sister with the scavenger hunt," Waller said. "I was really excited when I heard I won the bike!"

Waller lives in Jefferson City with her parents Josh and Carrie Watson, her brother Isaac, 9 and her sister India, 7. She plans to pass the bike on to them when she outgrows it.

2007 marked the fourth year that MoDOT hosted the scavenger hunt at the state fair. The department plans to continue the tradition again next year.

"It's a fun project that teaches them about transportation and programs like Adopt-A-Highway," said Rand Swanigan who manages the Highway Gardens for MoDOT. "And the chance to win a bike is always a nice incentive to play."