



CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caribbean Schools Shine in 2025 Caribbean Lightning Safety Awareness Contest

Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago | 25 June 2025 – The **Caribbean Meteorological Organization** (CMO) is pleased to announce the winners of the **2025 Caribbean Lightning Safety Awareness Contest**, a regional activity designed to promote public knowledge of lightning safety and first aid through creative expression by school children. This year's contest coincides with *International Lightning Safety Awareness Week*, an annual event that culminates in **International Lightning Safety Day, 28 June**. The week's activities seek to raise global awareness of lightning hazards and the steps that can be taken to protect lives and property.

The contest was conceptualized by the CMO and **World Meteorological Organization** (WMO), with key inputs from the **Caribbean Examinations Council** (CXC), the **Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology** (CIMH), the **Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency** (CDEMA) and the support of the **Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat**. The initiative also benefited from private sector partnerships with *HydroMeteorological and Environmental Industry* (HMEI) members: **AccuWeather Inc.**, **Campbell Scientific**, **Vaisala**, and **Stevens Water Monitoring Systems Inc.**

The contest formed part of a broader regional effort under the **Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Caribbean Project Phase 2**, aimed at enhancing multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk knowledge across the region. It complements other key activities, including the development of a pilot lightning detection network, capacity building among National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services (NMHSs) in issuing lightning warnings, and regional public education campaigns on lightning safety and first aid.

Submissions were received from twelve (12) schools across the Caribbean, showcasing outstanding creativity, accuracy, and inclusiveness in delivering vital safety messages. Judges from the meteorology, education, public health, and disaster risk management sectors noted the exceptional quality of entries, which made the task of selecting winners extremely challenging.

The top winners in each age category are:

6-11 Years

- ◆ **First Place:** Camperdown Primary & Infant School – Jamaica
- ◆ **Second Place:** St Mary's Primary School – Dominica
- ◆ **Third Place:** St Andrew's Anglican School – The Bahamas

12-18 Years

- ◆ **First Place:** Manzanilla Secondary School – Trinidad & Tobago
- ◆ **Second Place:** St Catherine's Academy – Belize
- ◆ **Third Place:** Mopan Technical School – Belize

First-place winners will each receive a lightning detector and a weather station, while second and third-place schools will receive weather stations, all sponsored by AccuWeather. The top three schools in each category will also receive cash awards, kindly sponsored by the CREWS Initiative, Campbell Scientific, Vaisala, and Stevens Water Monitoring Systems Inc., supporting their continued learning and community safety efforts.

The CMO extends its deepest appreciation to all participating schools for their dedication and creativity, and for contributing to the advancement of a culture of safety and resilience in the Caribbean.

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About the CMO

The Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO) is a specialized agency of the Caribbean Community that coordinates the joint scientific and technical activities in weather, climate and water – related sciences in sixteen English-speaking Caribbean countries (Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands). The Organs of the CMO are: (i) The *Caribbean Meteorological Council* (CMC)-the Supreme, Governing Body, (ii) The *Headquarters Unit* (Secretariat), headed by a Coordinating Director, located in Trinidad and Tobago; (iii) The *Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology* (CIMH) located in Barbados; and (iv) The Caribbean Meteorological Foundation (CMF). The CMO originated from the British Caribbean Meteorological Service, founded in 1951.

Figure 1 - Screen Capture from the First Place Winner of the 6- 11 Years Category, Camperdown Primary and Infant School, Jamaica



Figure 2 - Screen Capture from the First Place Winner of the 12-18 Years Category, Manzanilla Secondary School, Trinidad and Tobago

