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For Immediate Release

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Portland Parks & Recreation Partners with Portland Teen Idol

Talent Competition Auditions Begin April 20, Registration Now Open

(Portland, OR) –

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) is proud to partner with Portland Teen Idol as the popular local student talent contest begins auditions for Season 6.

Portland Teen Idol offers finalists cash prizes and spots on a summer performance tour. Several former Portland Teen Idol contestants have gone on to success on FOX television's smash hit, *American Idol*.

Portland Teen Idol Season 3 (2009) finalists Aubrey Cleland and Madison Shanley made *American Idol's* top 100.

Beaverton teen Haley Johnsen, who made this season's *American Idol* top 24, has committed to joining Portland Teen Idol program as a judge.

The first open auditions for 2012 will be held

**Friday, April 20, 6:30-9:00pm at
PP&R's University Park Community Center
9009 N Foss Ave, 503-823-3631**

and

**Saturday, April 21, 9:00am
PP&R's Mt Scott Community Center
5530 SE 72nd Ave, 503-823-3183**

Additional dates are expected to be announced soon, along with auditions for Spanish-language singers and stand-up comedians.

Teens that sign up in advance online at www.PortlandTeenIdol.com will get priority over drop-ins. Therefore, contestants are encouraged to sign up online before the April 15 advance registration deadline.

Contestants may enter drawings for gift cards on both days.

About Portland Teen Idol

Portland Teen Idol is one of very few competitions that include several rounds of competition, cash prizes, a performance tour, IMDB credit, and publishing on iTunes. No other local completion includes both English and Spanish in the same program.

Several former finalists are scheduled to help this year, including all five past winners – Jordan Thompson, Jeff Quigley, Gabriela Quintero, Jeyonna Barr, and Haley Ward (winners of Portland Teen Idol seasons 1-5, respectively).

Portland Teen Idol director Dennis Gleason indicates that fans should look for other surprise participants to make appearances. Gleason adds that local favorites Michael Allen Harrison and Ian James will be returning, as well as Mrs. Oregon International, Debra Gilmour.

M'chel Bauxal will again serve as a celebrity makeup artist & hair stylist. Vocalist Laura Cochran and many others are also involved with Portland Teen Idol.

"We are expanding the scope and the talent pool of Portland Teen Idol in this, the sixth year of the competition," says Gleason. "In addition to English-language vocalist category with a \$500 first prize; new contests for Spanish-language vocals and a stand-up comedy division have been added. Winners for each of those programs get \$250 in cash, and all finalists go on a summer tour together. This is what makes Portland Teen Idol unique from any other talent program!"

Eligibility:

Participating students must be in grades 7 through 12, live within 35 miles of the Portland/Vancouver metro area, and be at least 13 years old as of April 1, 2012. Contestants must NOT be professional artists or former Portland Teen Idol finalists. Portland Teen Idol welcomes volunteers to serve as interns, judges, guest musicians, and sponsors.

Portland Parks & Recreation is a key player in sponsoring the competition. Other nonprofits also benefit from the competition, including Oregon Media Production Association, Amy Roloff Charity Foundation, The Snowman Foundation, The GrassHarper Foundation, and Oregon League of Minority Voters.

Portland Teen Idol is an education-driven career enhancement program to help develop teens' talents, assist them in reaching their goals, and teach them to see their own potential through industry-like opportunities, performances, and mentoring. The video portion provides similarity to how the biz works thereby expanding the teens' network and creating a viable system of contacts may benefit them in future employment and provide real world experiences that can be applied to any pursuit.

For more information, contact Dennis Gleason at Press@PortlandTeenIdol.com or 503-708-3487

or call 503-823-5300 or visit portlandparks.org