River Quest lessons captured in winning essay

Congratulations to Eleanor “Ellie” French, sixth-grade student at Duluth’s Woodland Middle School, for being the winner of the 2010 Captain Ray Skelton River Quest Essay Contest. Her parents, Vickery and Bryan French, were on hand for the presentation of a plaque, which be in the display case at Woodland Middle School the next academic year. Ellie and her family also received gift certificates to several attractions. Here is an excerpt from her winning composition:

“I, like many other people my age, had no idea how much everyone uses the St. Louis River and Lake Superior, and how important it is to keep our water clean. I learned how the water gets clean, and how to help it stay clean, as well as how to stay safe so you are able to enjoy what the lake has to offer.”

The contest is named in memory of Captain Ray Skelton — one of the program’s founders, a master mariner and longtime Port Authority employee. You’ll find the full-length essay at seagrant.umn.edu/riverquest.

A record number of students (nearly 1,100) from 10 schools participated in River Quest this year. Over 14,000 students have participated in River Quest since its inception in 1993.

For more about River Quest, visit duluthport.com. Educators are also encouraged to check out materials posted at seagrant.umn.edu/riverquest.