

Connecticut's 375th Charter Oak meets National Christmas Tree:

25 Meriden Middle School students work with New London artist to paint ornaments commemorating Connecticut's 375th; to be featured on CT Tree during National Christmas Tree Lighting at White House on December 9

MERIDEN, CT— October 26, 2010—**Twenty-five students of Lincoln HOT Middle School in Meriden will paint special ornaments this Wednesday, October 27 to be displayed during the National Tree Lighting on December 9.** The Connecticut ornaments will include the students' painting of Connecticut's state tree, the Charter Oak, as well as the State of Connecticut's 375th anniversary logo. The ornaments will be displayed in the Pathway to Peace, leading to the National Christmas Tree, which features smaller Christmas trees representing various states and U.S. territories.

This past spring, award-winning New London Artist Mark Patnode formally donated to Governor M. Jodi Rell, on behalf of the state of Connecticut, an original oil painting of the Charter Oak in honor of the state's 375th Anniversary. The 375th Anniversary Charter Oak painting is a 6-foot-high, 58-inch-wide twin canvas. The first canvas, featured in the 375th logo, is on display in the Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism (CCT) office in Hartford through December 13. After that, it will become part of the Governor's Residence Conservancy collection. The second canvas was featured in the Connecticut Building at the Big E and is now traveling with Patnode to each of the schools participating in CCT's Higher Order Thinking (HOT) Schools program.

With the help from their art teacher Christine Webster and Patnode, 25 Lincoln HOT Middle School students have been studying the charter oak tree and sketching in advance before Patnode comes in to work with the students on **Wednesday, October 27**, along with artist and mathematician Dr. Roger Tremblay, of New London. They will be using acrylic globes where the State's 375th logo will be displayed on one hemisphere and the students will paint their own charter oak trees on the second hemisphere.

http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local-beat/Meriden_Christmas_Ornaments_Hartford-105908858.html