

For Immediate Release
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Twenty-Five Rewarded for Getting Off Their County Seat, Are You Next? *First-round of winners chosen for weekend getaway to the Raleigh area*

Raleigh, NC -- The Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau and American Express invite North Carolina residents to "Get Off Your County Seat" and visit Raleigh, during a year-long sweepstakes rewarding 100 winners, one from each of North Carolina's 100 counties, with a personalized weekend getaway to the Raleigh area. Twenty-five North Carolinian's have been chosen in the first round of drawings. The next set of 25 winners will be chosen in December.

Winners from the following counties have been chosen: Anson, Brunswick, Buncombe, Carteret, Craven, Durham, Franklin, Harnett, Haywood, Johnson, Lee, McDowell, Moore, Onslow, Orange, Polk, Perquimans, Pitt, Randolph, Rockingham, Rutherford, Surry, Transylvania, Union and Wake. Residents of these counties are still register for the grand-prize, which will be awarded in June 2010.

Each winner will receive a personalized weekend to the Raleigh area based on their areas of interest. Sweepstakes prizes include: two-night accommodations for two; gift certificates to a variety of area restaurants; two tickets to a special event tailored to specific interests; American Express Gift Card; a ZSpotCard for extra discounts at more than 250 area restaurants and attractions; as well as a mix of attraction, transportation and tour vouchers.

To enter, North Carolina residents must go to www.mycountyseat.com and fill out the online entry form and take a short quiz to determine what type of seat best fits their personality. Entrants will take the quiz and determine where they match among six categories of visitors: Creative Genius, Foodie, Fashionista, Adrenaline Junkie, Rock Star Wannabe or History Buff.

Sadly, not everyone can win, but the sweepstakes website also showcases the Raleigh area as an affordable destination. Package deals are listed on www.mycountyseat.com, as well as on www.visitRaleigh.com, so visitors can still enjoy a great weekend in Raleigh with options that are budget-friendly and match any interest.

The Greater Raleigh Convention & Visitors Bureau, as the official destination marketing organization of Raleigh and Wake County, accelerates sustainable economic growth and development by increasing visitor and convention business. Through its website, visitRaleigh.com and other tools, the GRCVB assists local visitors in a variety of ways.

Of note, more than 10.3 million travelers visited Wake County last year, with 73% of those visitors being North Carolina residents.