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"What Indiana Means to Me"

There is going to be a big birthday celebration and you're invited! The celebration of Indiana's Statehood Day is December 9, 2011. I'm an Indiana Hoosier, growing up in rural Indiana. I learn about community, history, and government, in a small town way. I am excited to learn about my state's government and how it became a state during this celebration. Here is what Indiana means to me.

In my little City of Rensselaer, we study Indiana History in fourth grade. In September we hold a festival called Little Cousin Jasper. This festival is important because it is named after a character in a poem by James Whitcomb Riley, a famous Indiana poet. The Iroquois River runs through my county, Jasper County. Even though it is not a big river, Charles Halleck, an Indiana Hoosier, and former U.S. State Representative, used to dock his little rowboat at the river's edge.

Indianapolis, Indiana, is my state capital. I have not been in the Statehouse, but I have been downtown. Did you know that there is a circle right in the center

of the city that you can drive around? I have visited the Indianapolis Zoo and the Children's Museum. One day I plan to go to Lucas-Oil Stadium to see a Colts game.

There are many places to visit and activities to do in Indiana. You can attend The Feast of the Hunter's Moon at Fort Ouiatenon, in Lafayette. Turkey Run State Park is a great place to camp, with awesome rock formations made by the glaciers of years ago. French Lick is a nice adventure, if you like indoor water parks. I took my first roller coaster ride ever, at Indiana Beach in Monticello. But one of the best places to visit in summer is the Indiana State Fair. At the state fair you learn about the agriculture of Indiana.

Growing up in a farming community in the State of Indiana is the best life for me. My family helps the economy of Indiana. As I grow up in Indiana, I learn about my state in fourth grade, along with my visits to Indiana sights. Future fourth graders will read about the 195th birthday celebration of Indiana's statehood one day, while I celebrate it this year. I am one Hoosier who can say, I know what Indiana means to me! Happy Birthday, Indiana!