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CONTACT: Joy Robinson
914-715-8072
Joy.Robinson04@yahoo.com

**Mason Young-Hiss From Berthoud, Colorado
Wins The National Odor-Eaters® Rotten Sneaker Contest®**

NEW YORK, NY (March 8, 2016) —Regional winners of the Rotten Sneaker Contest® gathered at Ripley's Believe It Or Not! Times Square for the 2016 national competition. Six contestants from across the country, ages seven to thirteen, went head-to head in New York City today to show off their foul smelling sneakers for a chance to win the national title. But only one pair of sneakers could be crowned the winner and they belonged to **12 year old, Mason Young-Hiss, from Berthoud, CO.**

The Odor-Eaters Rotten Sneaker Contest is the ultimate test that shows how offensive kids' sneakers can get when they are playing outdoors, splashing through puddles, slogging through mud and more. The contest has a long history (over 40 years) and kids from across the country look forward to this annual event in their hometown. Participants take pride in mucking up their shoes to stand out from their competitors to ultimately win over the judges. Sneakers are judged on the interior and exterior conditions of the shoe, and most importantly odor, by a professional panel that includes **NASA "Master Sniffer" George Aldrich**, Chemical Specialist for NASA space missions, and **Rachel Herz, Ph.D.**, an expert and author on the psychology of smell. Additionally, **Brittany Every**, Marketing Manager of Ripley's Believe Or Not! Times Square joined the expert judges this year. Brittany is accustomed to seeing the unexpected and unusual at Ripley's so she was up for the task.

This year, Mason was the grand prize winner of \$2,500, out-stinking other contestants including Hyrum Nelson (Eagle River, AK), Ethan Blum (Wheaton, IL), Catherine Dufresne (Shrewsbury, VT), Carlo Mendez (White Sands, NM), Parker Hambidge (East Hampton, CT). The champion confessed that his sneakers got dirty and smelly because he likes to work and play on his farm...and he doesn't allow his mother to wash his sneakers.

Mason also received an additional two-night stay in New York City, tickets to the Broadway Show ALADDIN, the Golden Sneaker Award, and a supply of Odor-Eaters products to kick out the odor from his new sneakers. Mason's rotten sneakers will also be enshrined in the Odor-Eaters "Hall of Fumes".

For more information about the Odor-Eaters Rotten Sneaker Contest or Odor-Eaters products, visit www.odor-eaters.com or the Odor-Eaters Rotten Sneaker Contest Facebook page.

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