

2010 National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

Frequently Asked Questions

❖ What is the Missing Children's Day poster contest?

- In 1999 the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) initiated the National Poster Contest to commemorate National Missing Children's Day. The annual theme of the Poster Contest is "Bring Our Missing Children Home."

❖ Who facilitates the poster contest?

- The Missing Children's Clearinghouse in each state, or other organization(s) designated by the Clearinghouse, develops and coordinates the process for a statewide competition. Missing Children's Non-Profit organizations also help to facilitate the contest in some states.

❖ Who may participate in the contest?

- On the national level, the contest is limited to children in the 5th grade. However, some state contests have included grades K-12.

❖ Does the US Department of Justice fund the contest?

- The Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) sponsors the contest
- OJJDP disseminates a packet of information in the Summer to the following points of contact in every state:
 - State Clearinghouse Managers
 - AMECO members
 - State Heads of Department of Education
 - State Safe and Drug Free School coordinators
- OJJDP also provides to the single **national** winner with a certificate, a US Savings Bond, and transportation/lodging to the annual award ceremony in Washington, DC. OJJDP also provides transportation/lodging for the winner's teacher and his/her parents.
- The Department of Justice does not fund state level contests. However, many Clearinghouses have found it useful to include Non-profit organizations, private organizations, and the media in their budgeting and planning.

❖ When does the poster contest begin?

- The suggested date for contest kick-off is September 2009 and state contests should conclude January 13, 2010, the annual AMBER Alert Awareness Day. States must mail their single winning entry to the OJJDP's Child Protection Division by **February 26th** in order to participate in the national contest.

❖ What is the purpose?

- A. The poster contest provides teachers with tools to educate children and parents about safety, and initiate conversations regarding prevention.
- B. The purpose of the contest is to foster collaboration between the Department of Justice, State Missing Children Clearinghouses, Association of Missing and Exploited Children's Organizations, Inc. members, and state school systems to raise awareness about child safety. The educational activities that accompany it are intended to demonstrate America's united effort to bring missing children home safely.

❖ What do awardees receive?

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- There is **one** national winner. The national winner will travel to Washington, DC in May to receive an award and participate in the Missing Children's Day ceremony.
 - State winners receive prizes and awards based on the discretion of the organization running the state-level contest.
- ❖ **Where can I find more information?**
- Information about the National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest can be obtained via email at mc.day.2010@fvtc.edu. Additional information, including poster contest rules, is also available on the following website: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/programs/postercontest>.