

National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

Every year the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) sponsors a national poster contest and announces the winner at the annual National Missing Children's Day ceremony in Washington, D.C. The purpose of the contest is to demonstrate America's united effort to bring missing children home safely, while highlighting the importance of proactive education programs. The poster contest and the educational activities that accompany it are designed to assist with this mission by keeping the issue at the forefront of people's awareness.

More importantly, the poster contest provides teachers with tools to educate students and parents about safety and initiate conversations about prevention. Student involvement in the poster contest promotes peer education, while compelling students to explore the significance of the theme "Bring Our Missing Children Home."

Every year, DOJ hopes to have every state, territory and the District of Columbia join together to educate children, teachers, parents and communities on methods that will keep children safe. Please intensify your efforts in this noble cause by joining us in this important campaign.

Facts

- The Missing Children's Clearinghouse, or other organization(s) designated by the clearinghouse, will develop and coordinate the process for a statewide competition. Posters **must** be submitted to the state poster contest manager for local judging; posters mailed directly to the national office will **not** be accepted.
- **One** winning entry from each state should be sent to the Department of Justice for the national judging and selection process.
- The national winner will travel to Washington, D.C., to receive an award and participate in the Missing Children's Day ceremony.
- The theme for the poster contest is "**Bring Our Missing Children Home.**"
- Only **fifth grade** students are eligible to participate in the contest.

Important Dates to Remember

January 2, 2013

- This is the date for the contest kick-off.
- Teachers are encouraged to incorporate the poster contest into their lesson plans.

March 8, 2013

- *All completed posters must be received by the Missouri State Highway Patrol - Missing Persons Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 568, Jefferson City, Mo. 65102.*
- *Please contact your state poster contest manager for more details about the state contest conclusion date. Heather Elder, 573-526-6178 or 1-800-877-3452.*

April 2013

- The national winner will be selected and notified.

May 25, 2013

- The National Missing Children's Day ceremony will take place on or around this date.

For more information about the National Missing Children's Day poster contest, call Nadia Tunstall at 1-888-347-5610 or 1-202-347-5610, or send an email to mc.day@fvtc.edu. Additional information is also available at the following website: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/programs/postercontest/>.