

2009 National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

Every year the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) sponsors a national poster contest and announces the winner at the annual National Missing Children's Day Ceremony in Washington, DC. 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.

More importantly, the poster contest provides teachers the tools to educate children and parents about safety, and initiate conversations regarding 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".

Facts:

- The Missing Children's Clearinghouse, or other organization(s) designated by the Clearinghouse, will develop and coordinate the process for a statewide competition.
- 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, DC 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 13, 2009: AMBER Alert Awareness Day

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

March 27, 2009:

- Local, Regional, and State competitions must be completed before March 27, 2009.
- The winning poster from each state must be received by the Child Protection Division by March 27, 2009.

April 2009:

- The national winner will be selected and notified.

May 25, 2009: National Missing Children's Day.

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

The Missing Children's Day Poster Contest and the educational activities that accompany it are intended to demonstrate America's united effort to bring missing children home safely. In 2009, DOJ hopes to have every state, territory, and the District of Columbia join together to educate children, teachers, parents, and communities on methods in keeping children safe. Please join us in this important program.

Information about the National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest can be obtained by contacting Nadia Tunstall at 1-888-347-5610, or 1-202-347-5610, or via email at mc.day.2009@fvtc.edu. Additional information is available on the following website:

<http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/programs/postercontest>.