



OJJDP
Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention

National Missing Children's Day Awards

Each year in May, in observance of National Missing Children's Day, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), through its Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), hosts a ceremony to recognize the extraordinary efforts of individuals, organizations, and agencies that have made a significant contribution to protecting children between November 21, 2020 and November 19, 2021. In 2022, OJJDP will make the following awards:

- [Missing Children's Law Enforcement Award](#)
- [Missing Children's Citizen Award](#)
- [Missing Children's Child Protection Award](#)
- [Attorney General's Special Commendation](#)

Processing of the awards is as follows:

- All nominations **must be submitted by November 19, 2021**. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. Nominations will be acknowledged upon submission.
- OJJDP will identify a panel of peers to review the nominations and rank the nominees.
- OJJDP reserves the right not to make an award for any reason.
- Nominees are subject to a formal background check and final approval by OJJDP.
- Award winners will be notified by OJJDP, and the names will be announced by OJJDP in or around April 2022.
- OJJDP will send a formal announcement of the winners to all persons who made a nomination. It will be the responsibility of the nominators to notify their respective nominee, if he/she was not selected.
- The awards will be presented in Washington, D.C. at the National Missing Children's Day Ceremony, which will be held on May 25, 2022.

Please direct all questions to the National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College at 877-798-7682 or mc.day@fvtc.edu.

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Missing Children's Law Enforcement Award

Guidelines

The award is intended to recognize the extraordinary efforts of an active duty law enforcement officer or officers who has made a significant investigative or program contribution to the safety of children.

- Nominations will not be accepted from relatives or friends; nor will self-nominations be accepted.
- The exemplary actions of the individual(s) nominated for the award must have taken place between November 21, 2020 and November 19, 2021.
- Nominees must be United States citizens.
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Nominees are subject to a formal background check and final approval by OJJDP.
- OJJDP reserves the right not to make an award for any reason.
- All submitted materials become the property of OJJDP.

Nominee Criteria

- All nominees must be active members of the law enforcement community.
- All nominees must meet at least one of the following criteria:
 1. Were actively involved in an investigation leading to the recovery of missing or abducted child or children.
 2. Developed a program, policy, or guidelines that significantly improved the safety of children.
 3. Made a significant impact on missing or abducted children's issues or programs at the department, county, regional, state, or national level.

Nomination

Complete the [online nomination form](#), including a description of the action or contribution of the nominee(s) in 500 words or fewer. If more than one individual is being nominated, please submit contact information for all individuals and describe each person's role.

Contribution Summary

The summary must describe, in detail, each nominee's contribution, which may involve either an extraordinary investigation or a significant program contribution. Where possible, list the outcomes of the activity—number of arrests, number of children rescued/impacted, state/local impact, charges filed, trial outcome, if available, etc. The description should include all relevant participating agencies, including any federal entities, and outline the role each nominee played. The nominator may include links to additional materials (e.g., newspaper articles, press releases, awards, letters of support, etc.) within the application.

[Complete a nomination form today!](#)



Missing Children's Citizen Award

Guidelines

The award is intended to recognize the courageous act of a private individual or individuals whose actions directly helped to safely recover a missing/abducted child or children. This award recognizes the extraordinary vigilance and valiant actions of concerned citizens.

- Nominations will not be accepted from relatives or friends; nor will self-nominations be accepted.
- The exemplary actions of the individual(s) nominated for the award must have taken place between November 21, 2020 and November 19, 2021.
- Nominees must be United States citizens.
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Nominees are subject to a formal background check and final approval by OJJDP.
- OJJDP reserves the right not to make an award for any reason.
- All submitted materials become the property of OJJDP.

Nominee Criteria

- The nominee(s) must be an individual or individuals who actively participated in the recovery of a child or children.
- The nominee(s) must meet at least one of the following criteria:
 1. Individual actions resulted in the recovery of a missing/abducted child or children.
 2. Collaborated with law enforcement and other community partners to recover a missing/abducted child or children.
 3. Provided operational support to law enforcement for the purpose of recovering a missing/abducted child or children.

Nomination

Complete the [online nomination form](#), including a description of the action or contribution of the nominee(s) in 500 words or fewer. If more than one individual is being nominated, please submit contact information for all individuals and describe each person's role.

Contribution Summary

The summary must describe, in detail, each nominee's contribution. The description should include all relevant participating agencies, including any federal entities. The nominator may include links to additional materials within the application.

[Complete a nomination form today!](#)



Missing Children's Child Protection Award

Guidelines

The award is intended to recognize the efforts of child protective services agency personnel, an individual law enforcement officer (including police, sheriffs, and prosecutors), or other multidisciplinary professionals who work exclusively in the field of child protection. If other agencies are involved, it is the responsibility of the nominator to coordinate with them and submit one nomination.

- Nominations will not be accepted from relatives or friends; nor will self-nominations be accepted.
- The exemplary actions of the individual(s) nominated for the award must have taken place between November 21, 2020 and November 19, 2021.
- Nominees must be United States citizens.
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Nominees are subject to a formal background check and final approval by OJJDP.
- OJJDP reserves the right not to make an award for any reason.
- All submitted materials become the property of OJJDP.

Nominee Criteria

- All nominees must be active child protective service agency personnel, law enforcement officer (police, sheriff, or prosecutor), or other multidisciplinary professional who works exclusively in the field of child protection.
- All nominees must meet at least one of the following criteria:
 1. Was actively involved in an investigation leading to the protection of a child or children from victimization.
 2. Developed new policies or guidelines that significantly improved the safety and protection of children from abuse or victimization.
 3. Made a significant impact on child protection at the department, county, regional, state, or national level.

Nomination

Complete the [online nomination form](#), including a description of the action or contribution of the nominee(s) in 500 words or fewer. If more than one individual is being nominated, please submit contact information for all individuals and describe each person's role.

Contribution Summary

The summary must describe, in detail, each nominee's contribution, which may involve either an extraordinary investigation or a significant contribution to child safety. Where possible, list the outcomes of the activity—number of arrests, number of children rescued/impacted, state/local impact, number of defendants, charges filed, trial outcome, if available, etc. The description should include all relevant participating agencies, including any federal entities. The nominator may include links to additional materials within the application.

[Complete a nomination form today!](#)



Attorney General's Special Commendation

Guidelines

The award is intended to recognize individual or Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force efforts. If other agencies are involved that should be included in this award nomination, it is the responsibility of the nominator to coordinate with them and submit one nomination.

- Nominations must be made by an ICAC Task Force Member or an OJJDP ICAC Task Force Program Manager.
- The exemplary actions for the award must have taken place between November 21, 2020 and November 19, 2021.
- Each ICAC Task Force is limited to one annual nomination.
- Incomplete submissions will not be accepted.
- OJJDP reserves the right not to make an award for any reason.
- Nominees must be United States citizens.
- Nominees are subject to a formal background check and final approval by OJJDP.
- All submitted materials become the property of OJJDP.

Nominee Criteria

- The nominee must be an ICAC Task Force, an ICAC affiliate agency, or an individual assigned to an ICAC Task Force or affiliate agency.
- The nominee shall have performed either an investigative activity deemed exceptional or beyond the call of duty or have made a significant contribution to the ICAC Task Force Program.
- The nominee's investigative or program contribution must have taken place between November 21, 2020 and November 19, 2021.

Nomination

Complete the [online nomination form](#), including a description of the action or contribution of the nominee(s) in 500 words or fewer. If more than one individual is being nominated, please submit contact information for all individuals and describe each person's role.

Contribution Summary

The summary must describe, in detail, each nominee's contribution, which may involve either an extraordinary investigation or a significant contribution to child safety. Where possible, list the specific outcomes of the activity—number of arrests, number of children rescued/ impacted, state/local impact of the activity, number of defendants, charges filed, trial outcome, if available, etc. The description should include all relevant participating agencies, including any federal entities. The nominator may include links to additional materials within the application.

[Complete a nomination form today!](#)