



OJJDP

Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention

National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

The National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest is a nationwide contest designed to promote awareness among teachers, parents/guardians and children and engage them in discussions about safety.

Important information about this contest, including the application and consent and release form, can be found within this packet.

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Justice, we thank you for participating in this contest and look forward to seeing your creativity shine through your artwork!

Questions about the poster contest? [Contact the State Contest Manager](#) in your state!

Ver. 07/27/2024

NCJTC

National Criminal Justice Training Center
of Fox Valley Technical College

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42nd Annual National Missing Children's Day

Poster Contest Fact Sheet

Contest Rules

1. Applicants must be in the fifth grade.
2. Artwork should reflect the theme "**Bringing Our Missing Children Home**". This phrase must appear somewhere on the poster.
3. The theme may be depicted in the student's artwork through one, or a combination of, illustrations (e.g., signs and symbols, people, abstract, industry, wildlife) and can be created using media such as acrylics, watercolor, pencils, charcoal, magic markers, spray paint, crayons, and pastels. Digitally produced images, collages, cut-outs, and stamping will not be eligible for consideration.
4. The finished poster must measure **8½ x 14 inches**.
5. The poster must be submitted with a completed application, which includes a description of the poster and a brief biography of the artist, either typed or written legibly.

Judging Criteria

1. Complete contest rules must be followed at all levels of the competition. Incomplete packages and incorrectly sized posters will not be eligible for judging.
2. Artwork will be judged on:
 - a. Creativity
 - b. Reflection of the contest theme
 - c. Originality in design
3. Written applications will be judged on:
 - a. Comprehension of the theme
 - b. Clarity
 - c. Grammar and syntax appropriate to the fifth-grade level



Competition Procedures

1. Contact your [State Contest Manager](#) to confirm your participation in the contest and to obtain the submission deadline for your state.
2. Submit your poster, completed application, and signed consent and release form to your State Contest Manager by your state's submission deadline.

Awards

State Level

1. Each state winner whose poster is selected to go to the national judging competition, will receive a national award certificate from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

State managers are responsible for facilitating all statewide events, activities, and awards for participating children.

National Level

1. The national winner, his/her teacher (or designee from selected school) and parents/guardians (typically two people), and the state manager will be invited to Washington, D.C., to participate in the 42nd annual National Missing Children's Day event on **May 21, 2025**.
2. Transportation and lodging will be provided.
3. The national winner will also receive a national award certificate and a professional print of their poster.

Winning Poster

The national winning poster:

- a. Becomes the property of U.S. DOJ and will be displayed at the Department of Justice, congressional offices, and other locations as determined by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). Any applicable copyrights will be held by those offices.
- b. May be used in publications, exhibits, displays and on websites, as determined by OJJDP and U.S. DOJ.



- c. Will be presented as the national symbol for the 42nd Annual Missing Children's Day Ceremony and associated activities.
- d. Photos of the winner and his/her poster will be available through U.S. DOJ and may be posted wherever contest information is available.

Contest Timeline

1. December 2024
 - a. Poster contest begins
2. March 2025
 - a. Submission deadline at the state level. *Please contact your [State Contest Manager](#) to obtain the deadline for your state.*
3. April 2025
 - a. National winner will be notified.
 - b. Travel arrangements are initiated for attendance at the 42nd Annual National Missing Children's Day ceremony in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, May 21st.

Questions? [Contact the State Contest Manager](#) in your state.



Poster Contest Application

Thank you for participating in the 42nd Annual National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest! Please be sure to complete this application and ask your parent/guardian to complete the consent and release form before submitting your poster to your State Contest Manager. Posters that are submitted without an application and consent and release form included will not be considered for the contest.

Name: _____

Age: _____

School: _____

School Phone: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Educator's Name: _____

Educator's Email: _____

Salutation (circle one): Mr. / Mrs. / Ms.

Principal's Name: _____

Principal's Email: _____

Salutation (circle one): Mr. / Mrs. / Ms.



**41st Annual Missing Children's Day
Poster Contest Winner
Hanna L. | South Carolina**



Parent/Guardian Release and Consent Form

I hereby grant permission to use and reproduce the picture of my child, _____, and use my child's name in U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention related publications, news features, blogs, or other advertisements relating to the 42nd Annual National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest. I also grant permission for my child to participate in any interviews with media relating to this event. I understand that any written statements may be edited or used, in whole or in part, or adapted with other materials, and I hereby waive all rights of privacy, compensation, control, or royalties that I may have.

I have read this document before signing below and warrant that I fully understand its contents.

Name of Parent/Guardian (*please print*)

Signature

Address

Date

City, State, Zip

Phone Number

Email Address



State Contest Manager Contact List

Alabama	10	Nebraska	11
Alaska	10	Nevada	12
Arizona	10	Nevada	12
Arkansas	10	New Hampshire	12
California	10	New Jersey	12
Colorado	10	New Mexico	12
Connecticut	10	New York	12
Delaware	10	North Carolina	12
District of Columbia	10	North Dakota	12
Florida	10	Ohio	12
Georgia	10	Oklahoma	12
Hawaii	10	Oregon	12
Idaho	10	Pennsylvania	12
Illinois	10	Puerto Rico	12
Indiana	11	Rhode Island	12
Iowa	11	South Carolina	13
Kansas	11	South Dakota	13
Kentucky	11	Tennessee	13
Louisiana	11	Texas	13
Maine	11	Utah	13
Maryland	11	Vermont	13
Massachusetts	11	Virginia	13
Michigan	11	Washington	13
Minnesota	11	Washington	13
Mississippi	11	West Virginia	13
Missouri	11	Wisconsin	13
Montana	11	Wyoming	13



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Office of Juvenile Justice and
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Alabama

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Nevada

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Missing Children's Day Discussion Guide

Below is a guide intended for a facilitator (i.e., teacher, parent) to reference as a discussion starter with students. We hope this discussion will make the subject less scary and provide students with an understanding of the poster contest topic to help generate ideas for their artwork.

What is Missing Children's Day?

- An annual ceremony to recognize the amazing people who help to protect children.
- These people include law enforcement officers, social workers, prosecutors and everyday people (i.e. teachers, moms, dads, brothers, sisters, neighbors).
- The theme is "Bringing Our Missing Children Home".
 - There are people in this world that do bad things and break the law.
 - This is why we have police and judges.
 - Sometimes these people do bad things to kids, like take them away from their families.
 - Police can help by searching and helping to return these children to their home.

Questions for Students

- Have you or anyone you love ever been lost before?
- How did you feel?
- Did anyone help you or your loved one return home?
- Who found you or your loved one?
- How do you think your family felt?

Provide Guidance for Students

- When you draw your art, think about:
 - How you felt when you were lost.
 - Who helped you?
 - How your family felt when you were lost?

Attention 5th Graders

We welcome your participation in the
U.S. Department of Justice's National
Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

**You, your parents/guardians, and teacher
could win a trip to Washington, D.C.!**

Contest Rules

Students must create a poster that demonstrates the theme "Bringing Our Missing Children Home".

1. The finished poster must be 8 ½ x 14 inches.
2. The slogan "Bringing Our Missing Children Home" must appear somewhere on the poster.
3. Posters must be created by hand. Posters with printed images, collages, and stamping are not eligible.
4. Posters should be original in design. Be creative! Use acrylics, watercolor, pencil, charcoal, magic markers, spray paint, crayons, pastels, etc. To view previous artwork, visit the Featured Resources section on: ncjtc.org/mcd
5. The poster must be submitted with a completed application, which includes a description of the poster and a brief biography of the artist.

Posters must be submitted to your state contest manager for local judging by the submissions deadline.

2024 Winner: Hanna L.; South Carolina



"I painted a picture of the world as a puzzle. The picture shows a park with a playground and a mom walking along the path. However, there is a missing piece in the puzzle - her missing child. Also, there is a hand - the hand to correct this picture by helping to return the child to where he belongs. My picture symbolizes how the world is not complete until missing children return home. Those who help bring them back change the whole picture completely."

Contact the National Poster Contest
Manager at vicki.obrien5691@fvtc.edu
to find out how to contact your state manager

