



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION




Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

January 16, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey 
State Superintendent of Education

RE: National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

Each year more than 1.3 million children are reported missing. Law enforcement, citizens, and even children have been instrumental in keeping children safe and returning them home to their families, community, and school. Every year the U. S. Department of Justice (DOJ) takes time to commemorate the valiant and unselfish acts of the many organizations and individuals who bring our missing children home. On May 20, 2020, National Missing Children's Day, we pause to focus our attention on children who have been recovered, as well as the children who are still missing.

Each year the DOJ sponsors a national poster contest and announces the winner at the annual National Missing Children's Day Ceremony in Washington, D. C. The winner of this national contest, along with his or her teacher, and parents are flown to Washington to participate in this special ceremony. I invite you to join us in our efforts to educate children across the country about safety issues by giving our **fifth-grade students** an opportunity to participate in this poster contest. The theme for the poster contest is "**Bring Our Missing Children Home.**"

We hope that your system will join in this exciting and important national competition. A suggested timeline for school-level and system-level contests is enclosed. Please note that the deadline for each local education agency (LEA) to submit system-level winners to the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) is **February 14, 2020**. The single winning poster for the state of Alabama will then be submitted to the DOJ for final judging. The state winner will be recognized at Alabama's State Board of Education meeting.

If you have any questions or need additional information about this important national contest, please contact Dr. Carolyn A. Jones by telephone at (334) 694-4768 or via email at cajones@alsde.edu. Please share this information with all fifth-grade teachers in your system. Thank you in advance for your support. Together we can ensure the safety and security of children across the country.

EGM/CAJ/DSS

Attachments

FY20-2026

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37th 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 $8\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ 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 37th Annual National Missing Children's Day Ceremony on **May 20, 2020**.
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 DOJ, 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 38th 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. September 2019
 - a. Poster contest begins.
2. February 2020
 - a. Submission deadline at the state level. *Please contact your State Contest Manager to obtain the deadline for your state.*
3. April 2020
 - a. National winner will be notified.
 - b. Travel arrangements are initiated for attendance at the 37th Annual National Missing Children's Day ceremony in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday, May 20th.

Questions? Contact the State Contest Manager in your state.



Poster Contest Application

Thank you for participating in the 37th 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.



36th Annual Missing Children's
Day Poster Contest Winner
Madison D. | Kentucky



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 37th 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

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, and etc.

To view previous artwork, visit the [Featured Resources section](#)

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.



"I created my poster to show how many children are missing in the United States by creating a house made of puzzle pieces. There are 50 puzzle pieces outside of the house, one for each state, which include the number of children missing from that particular state. Inside of the house are puzzle pieces to demonstrate success stories of children who have been returned home, like Elizabeth Smart, Jaycee Dugard and most recently, Jayme Closs. To complete the house, we need to find the missing children or the house will never be complete."

Madison D. | Kentucky
2019 Poster Contest Winner



Contact the National Poster Contest
Manager Ali Sullivan at sullival@fvtc.edu
to find out how to contact your state manager

