



2008 Virginia Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

Fact Sheet

Contest Rules:

1. Applicant must be in the 5th grade.
2. Artwork should reflect the theme "Bring Our Missing Children Home." This phrase **must** appear somewhere on the poster. (Refer to page 5 for samples of national winning posters from prior years. Please note that prior years had different themes).
3. The theme must be depicted visually in one or a combination of mediums, such as: acrylics, watercolor, pencil, charcoal, magic markers, spray paint, crayons, and/or pastels.
4. The finished poster must measure 11 x 14 inches.
5. The poster must be submitted with a completed application (attached to the back of the poster) which includes a description of the poster and a brief biography of the artist (neither to exceed 100 words) either legibly written or typed.

Judging Criteria:

1. Complete contest rules must be followed for all levels of competition. Incomplete packages and incorrect sized posters **will not** be eligible for further consideration.
2. Artwork will be judged on:
 - a. Originality of design
 - b. Reflection of the contest theme
 - c. Use of color and materials
3. Written applications will be judged on:
 - a. Level of understanding of the subject
 - b. Clarity
 - c. Grammar and syntax appropriate to the 5th grade level

Competition Procedures:

1. Virginia's Missing Children Clearinghouse will manage and coordinate the statewide judging and winner selection. For questions or comments, please contact Ms. Ashley Presnell with Virginia's Missing Children Clearinghouse at (804) 674-2265 or by e-mail at ashley.presnell@vsp.virginia.gov.

2. Establish a local process for selecting a school division winner. The process used to determine the winner of the local competition will be the responsibility of the local school division.
3. Following local judging, the school divisions shall follow the guidelines established by Virginia's Missing Children Clearinghouse for submitting a winning entry.
4. **Guidelines for submissions:**
 - One entry per school division
 - All submissions must be postmarked no later than **March 10, 2008**
 - Mail the winning posters to:
Virginia State Police
Virginia's Missing Children Clearinghouse
Attn: Ms. Ashley Presnell
P. O. Box 27472
Richmond, VA 23261-7472
 - If using UPS or other package delivery service send to:
Virginia State Police
Virginia's Missing Children Clearinghouse
Attn: Ms. Ashley Presnell
7700 Midlothian Turnpike
Richmond, VA 23235
5. Following the statewide judging, the week of March 17–21, 2008, the single Virginia winning poster will be delivered to the U. S. Department of Justice no later than **March 28, 2008**. Posters not selected will be returned to the student's school.
6. At the national level, judging will be conducted by representatives from the Child Protection Division of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Americans for the Arts, and the law enforcement community.
7. The national award winner will be notified by the Child Protection Division who will also notify the winner's school and the local media outlets.

Awards:

1. ***At the Local Level.*** A certificate of recognition has been prepared and is available for download from the following web site:
<http://www.vsp.virginia.gov/MissingChildrenPosterContest.shtm>. Teachers should print the certificate from the Web site and present one to each participating student.

2. ***At the Local Level.*** School divisions will be responsible for **duplicating** and displaying the winning poster(s) in prominent sites deemed appropriate in the community, such as: police stations, public libraries, or school offices.
3. ***At the State Level.*** The top three winners will be recognized in an appropriate awards presentation. The date to be determined. Additionally, the single state winner, whose poster is selected to go to the national level of competition, will receive a national award certificate from the U. S. Department of Justice.
4. ***At the National Level.*** The single **national** winner, his/her teacher, and his/her parents will participate in the National Missing Children's Day ceremony at the U.S. Department of Justice to be held on or around May 25, 2008. Transportation and lodging will be provided. The national winner also will receive a national award certificate and a United States Savings Bond. No other awards will be provided by the Department of Justice.

National Winning Poster:

1. The winning poster (original and copies) will be displayed at the Department of Justice, Congressional Offices, and other locations as determined by the Child Protection Division and the Department of Justice.
2. The winning poster may be used in publications, exhibits, displays and on websites as determined by the Child Protection Division and the Department of Justice.
3. The winning poster will be used as the symbol for the National Missing Children's Day ceremony in 2009. The winner will once again travel to Washington, DC in 2009 when his/her poster will be presented as the national symbol for Missing Children's Day, 2009.
4. Photos of the winner and his or her poster will also be available through the Child Protection Division and the Department of Justice and will be posted wherever contest information is available.
5. The winning poster will become the property of the Child Protection Division and the Department of Justice. Any applicable copyrights will be held by those offices.

Contest Dates:

1. January 13, 2008 is National A.M.B.E.R. (America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response) Alert Awareness Day. Additional information on the A.M.B.E.R. Alert Program can be found at: <http://www.amberalert.gov/index.htm>.
2. January 14, 2008
 - a. Begin discussing personal safety issues with students
 - b. Provide poster contest information to 5th grade students

3. March 10, 2008
 - a. Postmark deadline for entries to be submitted for state competition
4. March 17-21, 2008
 - a. Statewide competition judging is conducted
5. March 28, 2008
 - a. Deadline for state winner contest packages to be received by the Child Protection Division
6. April, 2008
 - a. National judges submit the name of the poster contest winner
7. May 5, 2008
 - a. National winner notified
 - b. Travel arrangements are initiated for attendance at National Missing Children Day ceremony

If you have any questions or need additional information, please send an e-mail to ashley.presnell@vsp.virginia.gov or contact Ms. Ashley Presnell with Virginia's Missing Children Clearinghouse at (804) 674-2265. Information is also available on the Virginia State Police Web site: <http://www.vsp.virginia.gov/MissingChildrenPosterContest.shtm>.

