



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2009-155

TO: School District Superintendents
School Principals
5th Grade Teachers

FROM: Jim McBride, Ed.D. 

DATE: September 25, 2009

SUBJECT: 2010 National Missing Children's Day, Student Involvement

ABDUCTION AWARENESS

Each year across the nation, more than 1.3 million children are reported missing.

While there are many unselfish and valiant acts of organizations and individuals who bring missing children home, many are never found. The U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, is holding its eleventh annual nationwide contest for creating poster art that communicates the problem of missing children.

It explains, "The national 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 Mission Children Home.*"

The contest is for 5th graders. Contest rules are enclosed. Each participating school has the opportunity to submit their winning poster for judging at the state level. A committee at the Wyoming Department of Education will judge the each school's winning poster to finalize a state winner that will be sent to the national competition.

Contest rules are enclosed. In addition, feel free to access more information at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/programs/postercontest>. If you have any questions, please contact the Facilities and School Safety Consultant, Bruce Hayes, at 307-777-6198 or bhayes1@educ.state.wy.us. Your support for this activity is appreciated.

JM:BH

Attachments (7): Fact Sheet FAQ
 Press Release Application
 Certificate Poster

2010 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:

September 1, 2009

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

January 13, 2010-AMBER Alert Awareness Day

- *This is the suggested conclusion of state-level contests.*

February 26, 2010:

- The winning poster from each state must be received by the Child Protection Division by February 26, 2010.

April 2010:

- The national winner will be selected and notified.

May 25, 2010: National Missing Children's Day.

- The National Missing Children's Day ceremony will take place on 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 2010, 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.2010@fvtc.edu. Additional information is available on the following website: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/programs/postercontest>.

2010 National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

Frequently Asked Questions

❖ **What is the Missing Children's Day poster contest?**

- In 1999 the Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) initiated the National Poster Contest to commemorate National Missing Children's Day. The annual theme of the Poster Contest is "Bring Our Missing Children Home."

❖ **Who facilitates the poster contest?**

- The Missing Children's Clearinghouse in each state, or other organization(s) designated by the Clearinghouse, develops and coordinates the process for a statewide competition. Missing Children's Non-Profit organizations also help to facilitate the contest in some states.

❖ **Who may participate in the contest?**

- On the national level, the contest is limited to children in the 5th grade. However, some state contests have included grades K-12.

❖ **Does the US Department of Justice fund the contest?**

- The Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) sponsors the contest
- OJJDP disseminates a packet of information in the Summer to the following points of contact in every state:
 - State Clearinghouse Managers
 - AMECO members
 - State Heads of Department of Education
 - State Safe and Drug Free School coordinators
- OJJDP also provides to the single **national** winner with a certificate, a US Savings Bond, and transportation/lodging to the annual award ceremony in Washington, DC. OJJDP also provides transportation/lodging for the winner's teacher and his/her parents.
- The Department of Justice does not fund state level contests. However, many Clearinghouses have found it useful to include Non-profit organizations, private organizations, and the media in their budgeting and planning.

❖ **When does the poster contest begin?**

- The suggested date for contest kick-off is September 2009 and state contests should conclude January 13, 2010, the annual AMBER Alert Awareness Day. States must mail their single winning entry to the OJJDP's Child Protection Division by **February 26th** in order to participate in the national contest.

❖ **What is the purpose?**

- A. The poster contest provides teachers with tools to educate children and parents about safety, and initiate conversations regarding prevention.
- B. 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. The educational activities that accompany it are intended to demonstrate America's united effort to bring missing children home safely.

❖ **What do awardees receive?**

2010 National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

Frequently Asked Questions

- There is **one** national winner. The national winner will travel to Washington, DC in May to receive an award and participate in the Missing Children's Day ceremony.
 - State winners receive prizes and awards based on the discretion of the organization running the state-level contest.
- ❖ **Where can I find more information?**
- Information about the National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest can be obtained via email at mc.day.2010@fvtc.edu. Additional information, including poster contest rules, is also available on the following website: <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/programs/postercontest>.

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL SCHOOL

School or Poster Contest Coordinator Letterhead

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Name, Phone #

Agency Name, Address

AMBER Alert Awareness Day Program Participation in Missing Children's Poster Contest at Local Level Kids Focus: Bring Our Missing Children Home

CITY, STATE – January 13, 2010. Today, at _____ School, students have concluded their participation in the national poster contest which focuses on the theme: *Bring Our Missing Children Home*. With over 400 children returning home safely since the AMBER Alert program began, we chose AMBER Alert Awareness Day to initiate conversations with students about safety and to involve them in a national competition for the National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest.

The U.S. Department of Justice, through its Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Child Protection Division, sponsors this annual contest for 5th grade students to develop artwork that will represent America's united goal to bring missing children home safely.

The winning artwork is displayed at the National Missing Children's Day ceremony, to be held on May 25th. The national winner travels to Washington, DC, along with his/her parents and teacher to receive an award and participate in the ceremony. It is a fitting time for our 5th grade students to focus on this project as the nation remembers two children who represent missing children everywhere, Amber Hagerman and Etan Patz, we also celebrate the safe homecomings of children everywhere. _____ School is doing both today.

"It is extraordinary to give our students an opportunity to compete nationally in an art contest of such importance, especially as it gives _____ (name of school) a chance to teach them more about their safety," said _____, "and, we know that there is great talent at our school and we hope to send one of our students to Washington, DC."

About:

AMBER Alerts and Amber Hagerman: *The AMBER Alert Program began in 1996 when Dallas-Fort Worth broadcasters teamed with local police to develop an early warning system to help find abducted children. AMBER was created as a legacy to 9-year-old Amber Hagerman, who was kidnapped while riding her bicycle in Arlington, Texas, and then brutally murdered. Other states and communities soon set up their own AMBER plans as the idea was adopted across the nation. For more information about the AMBER Program, visit www.amberalert.gov.*

National Missing Children's Day and Etan Patz: *On May 25, 1979, 6-year-old Etan Patz grabbed his school books and gave his mother a goodbye kiss before leaving to catch the bus to school. Etan's mother was never to see him again. In the months and years that followed, Etan became the symbol for lost children all over America. Then, in 1982, President Reagan proclaimed May 25, the anniversary of Etan's disappearance, as National Missing Children's Day.*

_____ **School:** 2 – 3 sentence blurb about school

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Checklist

Contest Requirements	Complete	Requires more Work
Size: 11 x 14 inches		
Contains phrase “ Bring Our Missing Children Home”		
Artwork ■ Original design ■ Does <u>NOT</u> contain digitally produced images, collages, cut-outs or stamping		
Student Biography – ■ Not to exceed 100 words ■ Complete sentences ■ Clearly written or typed ■ Language appropriate for 5 th grader		
Picture Description ■ Not to exceed 100 words ■ Complete sentences ■ Clearly written or typed ■ Language appropriate for 5 th grader		
Application ■ Contact information provided ■ Application glued or taped to back of poster		

2009 National
Winning Poster



Recognizes



For participating in the

2010

*National Missing Children's Day
Poster Contest*

Teacher or Local Contest Coordinator

Date



Calling all 5th Graders!!



Want to Win a FREE trip to Washington, DC?

Participate in the Department of Justice's Missing Children's Day Poster Contest!

You Could Be a National Winner!!!

Winners receive a trip to Washington, DC for the National Missing Children's Day Ceremony, a certificate, and an US Savings Bond.

Talk to your parents! Talk to your Teachers! Create your own design!

What: Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

Who: 5th graders!

How: Create a poster to demonstrate the theme "**Bring our Missing Children Home**"

Contest Rules:

1. The finished poster must measure 11x14 inches.
2. The phrase "Bring Our Missing Children Home" must appear somewhere on the poster.
3. Posters must be handcrafted. Digitally produced artwork, collages, and stamping are not eligible.
4. The theme should be depicted visually in one or a combination of mediums, such as: acrylics, watercolor, pencil, charcoal, magic markers, spray paint, crayons, pastels, etc.
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 legibly written or typed.
6. Posters must be submitted to your state contest manager for local judging.

Find out how to contact your state manager by visiting <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/programs/postercontest>.

