



National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest Frequently Asked Questions

What are the contest rules?

Under contest rules, each participating school district must select a winner from their entries. Those winning entries will be reviewed by a panel of judges that will select a first-prize winner to represent New York State in the national contest. The Clearinghouse also will award prizes for second and third place.

To be eligible for the statewide competition, each district-wide winning entry must be received by the Clearinghouse and postmarked no later than March 2, 2015. The judging for statewide winners will occur the week of March 9 and the winner will be announced in early April, the same month the national judging will be held. The national winner will travel to Washington, D.C., accompanied by his or her teacher and parents, to receive an award. The winning poster will be used to promote National Missing Children's Day 2016.

When is the release and consent form necessary?

The release and consent form is only necessary when a school district is submitting the poster created by its first-place winner to the Missing Persons Clearinghouse, which is coordinating New York State's participation in the contest.

What if the first-place winner is unable to provide the release and consent form?

If the first-place winner is unable to provide the release and consent form, the school district should submit the poster created by its second-place winner.

Will the winner's last name be publicized?

Yes, the name of the winner will appear on the DCJS and U.S. Department of Justice websites (respectively, www.criminaljustice.ny.gov and www.mecptraining.org/educate/national-missing-childrens-day) as well as in any news releases, publications or official reports that those agencies distribute regarding the National Missing Children's Day contest or ceremony.

Will the winning entries from each school district be on display or publicized?

Each entry submitted by a school district to the Missing Persons Clearinghouse will be on display at the Empire State Plaza in Albany during the week of National Missing Children's Day, which will be held May 25, 2015. In addition, the posters created by the state's first-, second- and third-place winners will be publicized on the DCJS website (www.criminaljustice.ny.gov).

Will the three New York State winners receive prizes for their posters?

Yes. In addition to the first-place poster being submitted for national judging, the three New York winners each will receive a gift card from Michael's Arts and Craft Store: first place will receive a \$50 gift card, second place will receive a \$25 gift card and third place will receive a \$10 gift card.

Where should each school district send its winning entry?

New York State Missing Persons Clearinghouse
NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services
Alfred E. Smith Building
80 South Swan Street
Albany, NY 12210

What is the contact information for the Missing Persons Clearinghouse?

800-346-3543
missingpersons@dcjs.ny.gov