

# The Missouri Department of Public Safety POSTER CONTEST



41st Annual Missing Children's Day Poster Contest Winner

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

Important information about this contest and both the State and National level; including the application, consent and release form, can be found within this packet.

On behalf of the State of Missouri Department of Public Safety and 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.



# 42nd Annual Missouri 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. Submit your poster, completed application, and signed consent and release form by the dead line of **January 24, 2025** to:

Missouri Department of Public Safety  
Attn: Michelle Parks- State Contest Manager  
PO Box 749  
1101 Riverside Drive, 4th Floor  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

## AWARDS

### State Level

The winner of the Missouri State Poster Contest will be notified and their poster will be submitted to the National judging competition. In addition, the state winner will receive a National Award Certificate from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

### National Level

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 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Missing Children's Day Ceremony on **May 21, 2025**.

Transportation and lodging will be provided.

The national winner will also receive a national award certificate and a professional print of their poster.



## WINNING POSTER

The national winning poster:

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.

- May be used in publications, exhibits, displays and on websites, as determined by OJJDP and U.S. DOJ.
- Will be presented as the national symbol for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Missing Children's Day Ceremony and associated activities.
- 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. January 2025
  - All submissions must be received by the Missouri Department of Public Safety by the **January 24, 2025** deadline.
2. March 2025
  - *Missouri contest winner will be notified.*
3. April 2024
  - National winner will be notified.
  - Travel arrangements are initiated for attendance at the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Missing Children's Day ceremony in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, May 21 2025.

## QUESTIONS

Contact the Missouri Program Manager  
Michelle Parks at 573-526-1464



## Poster Contest Application

Thank you for participating in the 42nd Annual Missouri 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 the Missouri State Contest Manager. Posters that are submitted without an application and consent and release form included will not be considered for the contest.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student Age:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Student Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **MO, Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Educator's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Educator's Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Principal's Email:** \_\_\_\_\_





## Parent/Guardian Release and Consent Form

I hereby grant permission to use and reproduce the picture of my child,

(Insert StudentName) \_\_\_\_\_,  
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 42<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**Parent/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Please Print**

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **MO, Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



## 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 if you have ever been lost.
- Who helped you if you were lost or afraid?
- How your family felt or would feel if you were lost?



# Attention 5th Graders

You are invited to participate in the  
2025 Missouri Department of Public Safety  
National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 24, 2025**

- Student must create a poster that demonstrates the theme "Bringing Our Missing Children Home".
- The finished poster must be 8 ½ x 14 inches in size.
- The slogan "Bringing Our Missing Children Home" must appear somewhere on the poster.
- Posters must be created by hand. Posters with printed images, collages, and stamping are not eligible and will not be considered.
- 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 on: [ncjtc.org/mcd](http://ncjtc.org/mcd)
- The poster must be submitted with a completed application, which includes a description of the poster and a brief biography of the artist.



2024 Poster Contest Winner  
Hanna L. of Chesness SC

"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 symbolized how the world is not complete until missing children return home. Those who help bring them back change the whole picture completely."