

ATTENTION 5TH GRADE STUDENTS!

We welcome your participation in the
2026 New York State
Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

*You, your parents/guardians, and teacher
could win a trip to Albany!*

CONTEST RULES:

1. Students must create a poster that demonstrates the theme “Bringing Our Missing Children Home.”
2. The finished poster paper size **must be 8.5 x 14 inches.**
3. The **exact slogan, “Bringing Our Missing Children Home,” must appear** somewhere on the poster.
4. Posters must be created by hand and by one individual student.
5. Posters with printed images, collages, and stamping are not eligible.
6. The poster **must be submitted with a completed application**, which includes a description of the poster and a brief biography of the artist.
7. Entries **must be postmarked by April 3, 2026**, and mailed to:

New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services
Missing Persons Clearinghouse
80 South Swan St., Albany, N.Y. 12210



*Hailey Morey | Cicero, N.Y.
2025 New York State
Poster Contest Winner*

Judging Criteria

1. Contest rules must be followed for the submission to qualify for judging.
2. Submissions must contain a completed consent form and application to be eligible for judging.
3. Artwork will be judged on:
 - a. Creativity
 - b. Reflection of the contest theme
 - c. Originality in design
4. Written applications will be judged on:
 - a. Comprehension of the theme
 - b. Clarity, grammar, and syntax appropriate to the fifth-grade level

Awards

- New York State will award Amazon gift cards to 1st Place (\$100), 2nd Place (\$75) and 3rd Place (\$50) winners, who will be notified after judging occurs in February 2026.
- All state winners, their teachers, and parents/guardians will be invited to attend an award ceremony at the Empire State Plaza in Albany on May 13, 2026.
- All qualifying entries will be displayed at the Empire State Plaza Concourse during the week of Missing Children's Day (Monday, May 25, 2026) and may be used in state publications, exhibits and displays and on websites.



Please Note:

The federal Justice Department's annual Missing Children's Poster Contest has not been announced and it is unclear whether the contest will be held this year. The New York State winning poster will not be submitted to the national contest, should it be announced at a later date.



**Division of Criminal
Justice Services**
Missing Persons Clearinghouse

Contact us:

missingpersons@dcjs.ny.gov
800-346-3543
www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/missing