

National / New York State Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

The New York State Missing Persons Clearinghouse, which is housed at the state Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), coordinates the state's poster contest. The winner of New York's contest is entered into the national contest, which is sponsored by the federal Department of Justice.

The state contest follows the rules and judging criteria of the national contest. The deadline for entries is typically in late January and the state's first-, second-, and third-place winners are notified sometime in March. The national contest winner is announced in April.

Please email missingpersons@dcjs.ny.gov for more information about the contest and deadlines.

Rules

- Applicants must be in the fifth grade.
- Artwork should reflect and must include this phrase in its entirety on the poster "Bringing Our Missing Children Home".
- 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, cutouts, and stamping are not eligible for consideration.
- The finished poster must measure 8½ x 14 inches.
- The poster must be an original design and must be submitted with a [consent form](#) and completed [application](#), which includes a description of the poster and a brief biography of the artist, either written legibly or typed.

The Featured Resource section on [this website contains artwork](#) from previous years.

Judging Criteria

Complete contest rules must be followed at all levels of the competition.

Incomplete packages and incorrectly sized posters are not eligible for judging.

Artwork is judged on:

- Creativity
- Reflection of the contest theme
- Originality in design

Written applications are judged on:

- Comprehension of the theme
- Clarity
- Grammar and syntax appropriate to the fifth-grade level

Awards - State Level

- New York State's First Place winner is entered into the national judging competition.
- The state presents Amazon gift cards to the First Place (\$100), Second Place (\$75), and Third Place (\$50) winners.
 - A DCJS Commissioner's Outstanding Creativity Award is presented at the discretion of Clearinghouse staff.
- Qualifying entries received are displayed on the Empire State Plaza Concourse in May, and may be used in publications, exhibits, displays and on websites as determined by DCJS.

Awards - National Level

- Each state winner, whose poster is selected to go to the national judging competition, receives a national award certificate from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).
- The national winner is notified in April.
- The national winner, his/her teacher (or designee from selected school) and parents/guardians (typically two people), and the state manager are invited to Washington, D.C., to participate in the DOJ's National Missing Children's Day ceremony, which occurs in May. Transportation and lodging are provided.
- The national winner also receives a national award certificate, a United States Savings Bond, and a professional print of their poster.
- The national winning poster is:
 - the national symbol for Missing Children's Day for the year;
 - the property of DOJ and is displayed at DOJ, congressional offices, and other locations as determined by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), and any applicable copyrights are held by those offices; and
 - may be used in publications, exhibits, displays and on websites, as determined by the DOJ and OJJDP.