



2025 National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest Fact Sheet

Contest 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 will not be eligible for consideration.

The finished poster must measure **8½ x 14 inches**.

The poster must be submitted with a completed application, which includes a description of the poster and a brief biography of the artist, either written legibly or typed.

Judging Criteria

Complete contest rules must be followed at all levels of the competition. Incomplete packages and incorrectly sized posters will not be eligible for judging.

Artwork will be judged on:

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

Written applications will be judged on:

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

Awards - State Level

On behalf of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, the SC Department of Education, and the U.S. Department of Justice, we thank you for participating in this contest.

The SC winning poster will continue the contest at the national level. A second and third place will also be selected for the state. All participants will receive an award certificate from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

State managers are responsible for facilitating all statewide events, activities and awards for participating children.

Awards - National Level

Each state winner, whose poster is selected to go to the national judging competition, will receive a national award certificate from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).

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 U.S. DOJ's National Missing Children's Day ceremony in 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.

The National Winner will be notified in April 2025. Travel arrangements are initiated for attendance at the 2025 National Missing Children's Day Ceremony.

Winning Poster

The national winning poster:

Becomes the property of U.S. DOJ and will be displayed at DOJ, 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.

The winning poster will be presented as the national symbol for the 2026 Missing Children's Day.

Entries must be received by **February 14, 2025** and sent to:

**SLED Fusion Center
AMBER Alert
4400 Broad River Rd
Columbia, SC 29210**

For more information, call 803-896-7133 or email aschelble@sled.sc.gov
<http://www.sled.sc.gov/>

2024 National Poster Contest Winner South Carolina - Hanna L.



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