

## 2024 NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY POSTER CONTEST FACT SHEET – TEXAS

More contest information at [centerforthemissing.org/poster-contest/](https://centerforthemissing.org/poster-contest/).

### 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, etc.*) 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. **The finished poster must measure 8½ x 14 inches.**
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. Demonstrated comprehension of the theme.
  - b. Clarity.
  - c. Grammar and syntax appropriate to the fifth-grade level.

### Awards

#### ***At the state level:***

- The **single** state winner whose poster is selected to go to the national competition will receive a national award certificate from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ).
- The single Texas state winner will receive a framed copy of his/her artwork.

#### ***At the national level:***

- The national winner will also receive a national award certificate and a professional print of their poster. Additional details regarding the award package are pending.

## Winning Poster

- The winning poster (original and copies) becomes the property of the Department of Justice (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 Division (OJJDP). Any applicable copyrights will be held by those offices.
- The winning poster may be used in publications, exhibits, and displays, and on websites, as determined by OJJDP and the U.S. DOJ.
- The winning poster will be presented as the national symbol for the 2024 Missing Children's Day ceremony and associated activities.
- Photos of the winner and his/her poster will be available through the U.S. DOJ and may be posted wherever contest information is available.

## Contest Dates

### **November 2023 – Contest Kick-Off**

- a. Begin discussing safety issues with students. Download the [Activity Guide](#) to start the conversation.
- b. Provide poster contest information to fifth grade students.

### **February 2, 2024 – Hard Deadline. No extensions are possible.**

- a. All Texas State Level poster submissions are due. Send to:  
Texas Center for the Missing  
Attn: Poster Contest  
2500 Bolsover Street  
Houston, TX 77005
- b. For questions, contact Mel Turnquist at 713.986.3542 or [mturnquist@tcftm.org](mailto:mturnquist@tcftm.org).

### **February 12, 2024**

- a. Texas State winner is notified.

### **April 2024**

- a. National winner is notified by OJJDP.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please send an email to [mturnquist@tcftm.org](mailto:mturnquist@tcftm.org). Packet information can be found at <http://centerforthemissing.org/poster-contest/>.