

2025 NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY POSTER CONTEST FACT SHEET – TEXAS

More contest information at 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 certificate and gift certificate.

At the national level:

- The **single** 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 42nd annual National Missing Children's Day event 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 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 2025 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

December 2024 – 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 27, 2025 – 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.

February 29, 2025

- a. Texas State winner is notified.

April 2025

- a. National winner is notified by OJJDP.

May 21, 2025

- a. National winner is recognized in Washington, DC.

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