

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Commissioner of Education

MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents
School Principals

FROM: Pam Stewart

DATE: December 13, 2013

SUBJECT: National Missing Children's Day Poster Contest

Contact Information:

Dinah Johnson

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mepic@fdle.state.fl.us

DPS: 2013-174

Each year more than 1.3 million children are reported missing. Law enforcement, citizens and even children have been instrumental in keeping children safe and returning them home to their families, communities and schools. Every year, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) takes time to commemorate the valiant and unselfish acts of the many organizations and individuals who bring our missing children home. On May 25, 2014, National Missing Children's Day, we will pause to focus our attention on children who have been recovered, as well as the children who are still missing.

As part of the annual commemoration, DOJ sponsors a national poster contest and announces the winner at the annual National Missing Children's Day ceremony in Washington, D.C. The winner of this national contest, along with his or her teacher and parents, are flown to Washington to attend this special ceremony. I invite you to join us in our efforts to educate children across the country about safety issues by giving your fifth-grade students an opportunity to participate in this poster contest.

Local schools participating in the event will have the opportunity to submit their winning poster for judging at the state level. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC), along with the Florida Department of Education and other organizations, will be working together to select a winner to represent the

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state of Florida. The statewide winner will receive an all-expenses-paid trip to Tallahassee, Florida, for Missing Children's Day in September 2014. The winner will also receive a prize package, including a trip to Universal Studios, and his or her poster will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Justice for national judging.

The theme for the poster contest is "Bring Our Missing Children Home." Submissions must be handcrafted and measure 8 ½ x 14 inches. We suggest that schools start as soon as possible on school-level poster contests and classroom discussions. Those schools interested in participating are asked to submit their poster(s) for state-level judging, postmarked by January 31, 2014, to the following:

Dinah Johnson
Florida Department of Law Enforcement
Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse
2331 Phillips Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32308

A complete information packet can be found at <http://mecptraining.org/poster-contest/>. If you have any questions or need additional information about this national contest, please send an email to mepic@fdle.state.fl.us or mc.day@fvtc.edu.

We look forward to receiving entries from across the state and hope that your fifth graders will join in this exciting and important national competition. Thank you in advance for your assistance and support. Together we can ensure the safety and security of children in Florida and across the country.

PS/jac