



Illinois AMBER Alert Task Force

Task Force Members:

IL State Police – Chair
IL Broadcasters Association
National Weather Service
IL Department of Transportation
IL Emergency Management Agency
IL Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board
IL Central Management Services
IL State Board of Education
IL State Emergency Communication Committee
IL Sheriff's Association
IL Association of Chiefs of Police
IL Secretary of State Police
IL Press Association

Dear Community Leaders, District Superintendents, Principals, Teachers, and Parents:

Did you know that more than 37,000 children are reported missing in Illinois each year? Fortunately, most of these children return home safely. Sadly, many do not. Law enforcement, citizens, and even children have been instrumental in keeping children safe and to return them home to their families, community, and school. Every year, Illinois pauses to commemorate the valiant efforts of many organizations and individuals who are responsible for bringing our missing children home. On May 25th, National Missing Children's Day, we focus our attention on the children who have been recovered, as well as the children who are still missing.

Each year the Illinois AMBER Alert Task Force sponsors a poster contest for grades K-12. We ask you to join us in our efforts to educate Illinois children about safety issues by giving students an opportunity to participate in this poster contest highlighting the efforts to reunite children with their families. The theme for the poster contest is "Bringing Our Missing Children Home." The poster contest begins on January 13th AMBER Alert Awareness Day. A complete packet of information relating to the poster contest can be found on the Illinois AMBER Alert Task Force website, www.amberillinois.org. Deadline for the state contest submissions is March 15th.

One winner from each grade will be announced in May and displayed in the following year Illinois AMBER Alert calendar. The 5th grade winner will advance on to the U.S. Department of Justice's national poster contest with a chance to travel to Washington, DC. and receive an award at the National Missing Children's Day Ceremony. More information about the national poster contest can be found at DOJ's website www.ojjdp.ncjrs.gov/programs/postercontest/

Along with the Child Lures Prevention School Program, several other child safety lesson plans have been identified to assist with classroom instruction. You can find them at the following Internet sites:

<http://www.netsmartz.org/educators.htm>
<http://www.icactraining.org/Resources.htm>
www.pollyklaas.com

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please send an email to missing@isp.state.il.us or call the Illinois Clearinghouse for Missing Children at 1-800-843-5763.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and support. Together we can insure the safety and security of children across the country.

Sincerely,

Illinois AMBER Alert Task Force



Illinois AMBER Alert Task Force Missing Children's Day Poster Contest Fact Sheet

Contest Rules:

1. Artwork should reflect the theme "Bring Our Missing Children Home." This phrase must appear somewhere on the poster.
2. The theme must be depicted visually in one or a combination of mediums, such as: acrylics, watercolor, pencil, charcoal, magic markers, spray paint, crayons, pastels, etc.
3. The finished poster must measure 11 x 14 inches.
4. The poster must be submitted with a completed application.

Judging Criteria:

1. Complete contest rules must be followed for all levels of competition. Incomplete packages and incorrect sized posters will not be eligible for further consideration.
2. Artwork will be judged on:
 - a. Originality of design
 - b. Reflection of the contest theme
 - c. Use of color and materials

Awards:

1. Each applicant will receive a certificate of recognition for participating in the contest from the Illinois AMBER Alert Task Force.
2. The single 5th grade state winner whose poster is selected to go to the national level of competition will receive a national award certificate from the Department of Justice.
 - The single national winner, his/her teacher, and his/her parents will participate in the National Missing Children's Day ceremony at the U.S. Department of Justice to be held on or around May 25th. Transportation and lodging will be provided. The national winner also will receive a national award certificate and a United States Savings Bond. No other awards will be provided by the Department of Justice.

Winning Posters:

1. One winner from each grade will be announced in May and displayed in the Illinois AMBER Alert Task Force calendar the following year, along with other locations as determined by the Task Force.
2. The winning posters may be used in publications, exhibits, displays and on websites as determined by the Illinois AMBER Alert Task Force.
3. The winning posters will become the property of the Illinois AMBER Alert Task Force.

Contest Dates:

1. January 13th – AMBER Alert Awareness Day
– Poster contest information disseminated
2. March 15th
– Deadline for Illinois contest submissions
3. April 1st
– 5th grade winner submitted to national competition
4. By May 25th
– All winners notified

Should you have any questions or need further information, please send an email to the Child Safety Coordinator at missing@isp.state.il.us or call the Illinois Missing Children's Clearinghouse at 1-800-843-5763.



Illinois AMBER Alert Task Force Missing Children's Day Poster Contest Application

Name: _____

Grade: _____ Age: _____

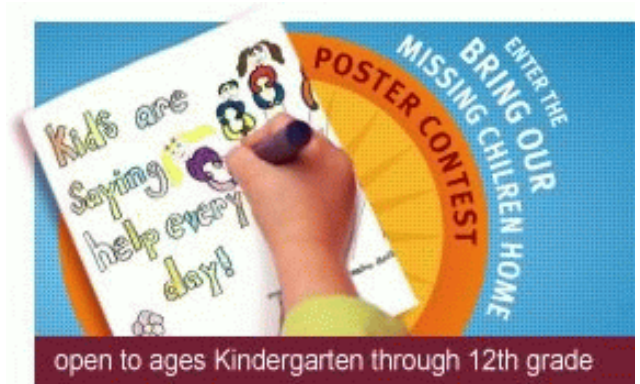
*School Name: _____

School Address: _____

Principal's Name: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

*School participation not necessary to submit entry



DEADLINE FOR ENTRY - MARCH 15th

*Checklist

Contest Requirements	Complete	Requires More Work
Size: 11 x 14 inches		
Contains phrase "Bring Our Missing Children Home"		
Application		
• Contact information provided?		
• Application taped or glued to back of poster?		

*Please note: Illinois 5th graders should complete the national contest application which includes additional information regarding themselves and their poster.

Mail entries to: Illinois AMBER Alert Task Force
 Attn: Child Safety Coordinator
 2200 S. Dirksen Pwky., Ste. 248
 Springfield, Illinois 62703-4528