



American Red Cross
Emergency Management Association of Ohio
National Weather Service
Ohio Citizen Corps
Ohio Department of Aging
Ohio Department of Commerce-State Fire Marshal
Ohio Department of Education
Ohio Department of Health

Ohio Department of Insurance
Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Ohio Department of Public Safety-Ohio EMA
Ohio Department of Transportation
Ohio Insurance Institute
WBNS – 10TV
WCMH – NBC4

January 2015

OHIO SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS POSTER CONTEST

Ohio grade schools will soon receive notice about the annual Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest which is promoted by the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness. We encourage art and science teachers for first through sixth graders and special education/individualized instruction to have their students participate in this worthwhile and educational activity.

Background

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness has been teaching Ohioans about severe weather safety and preparedness since 1978. The purpose of the poster contest is to have students demonstrate through their artwork how people can protect themselves and others from the dangers and hazards that accompany severe weather in Ohio.

Participating schools send their first-place posters (**per grade**) to their regional National Weather Service Offices (see attached for NWS Office listings). The NWS offices will judge all poster entries and choose their #1 pick, per region, per grade-level. In early May, the Severe Weather Awareness Committee will judge the regional-winning posters to determine the state and overall state winners. Schools will be notified of their regional winners by the end of May; all regional winners will be invited to attend the awards ceremony held at the Ohio State Fair in August.

All regional winners and their parents or guardians will receive up to four tickets to attend the awards ceremony at the Ohio State Fair on **August 8, 2015**. The students will receive a host of prizes, certificates and awards. State-level winners will receive additional prizes. And the overall winner will receive even more prizes along with a personalized trophy. Once school is back in session, the overall winner's school will be presented a "traveling trophy" to display during the school year.

All winning posters from last school year can be viewed on the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness website: www.weathersafety.ohio.gov.

How to Enter

Complete contest rules and entry forms are available on the OCSWA site. Go to **Just for Kids** and click on **Contest Rules**. Schools are encouraged to participate in the poster contest during **Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 1-7, 2015**. Schools should mail their first place posters per grade level to their appropriate NWS office. Poster entries must be postmarked by April 16, 2015.

All regional winners will be invited to attend the awards ceremony at the Ohio State Fair on Saturday, **August 8, 2015**. The state-level winners and the overall state winner will be announced near the end of the ceremony.

Instructions and Rules for the Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest

As part of the 2015 Severe Weather Awareness campaign, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness, in cooperation with the National Weather Service, is sponsoring its annual Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest. This contest is open to all Ohio students in first through sixth grade and individualized instruction (special education) classes.

Participation is encouraged by all public, private and home schools. This drawing contest serves as a valuable tool to help students learn about severe weather safety and preparedness.

Any Ohio student in 1st -6th grade is eligible to enter. If a student is home-schooled, or if the school is not participating in the contest, the student can still enter the contest by submitting his or her poster with a copy of these rules to his or her local school's office.

Poster entries must illustrate the theme of Ohio severe weather safety. Posters will be judged on originality, effort and technical correctness. Severe weather awareness posters must cover one of these categories: tornadoes, flooding, thunder and lightning storms, winter storms or extreme heat (heat waves).

Poster size cannot exceed 11" x 17" paper. Larger sizes will not be considered.

Artwork must be original and illustrated by individual students (no teamwork, please). Crayons, markers, pencils, paints, etc. can be used. ***No computer-generated artwork, graphics, words or photographs may be used.*** Posters cannot have clippings from magazines, newspapers or books.

The back of the poster must clearly include the following information (see attached form):

Student's FIRST and LAST NAMES, AGE and GRADE

Home Address and County

Home Phone Number

School's Name, Address, County, Phone Number / Teacher's Name, E-mail Address

Regional National Weather Service Office

Schools are encouraged to conduct the contest during Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week, March 1-7, 2015. Teachers should select their 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice posters per grade that participated. ***Only first-place posters should be mailed to their appropriate National Weather Service Office by April 16 (see attached list – last page).***

Blank certificates of participation will be available online at www.weathersafety.ohio.gov. Go to **Just for Kids**. Click on **2015 Certificate**.

All entered posters become property of the National Weather Service and the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness. Regional and state-level winning posters will be returned to the students after the poster contest's ***Awards Ceremony at the Ohio State Fair, Saturday, August 8th.***

Additional information regarding the 2015 Ohio Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest and severe weather safety and preparedness is available on the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness website: www.weathersafety.ohio.gov.

OHIO SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY POSTER CONTEST ENTRY FORM
(Print and attach one form on the back of each poster)

STUDENT NAME _____

AGE _____ 2015 GRADE LEVEL _____ COUNTY _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE NUMBER _____

NAME OF SCHOOL _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS _____

SCHOOL CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

SCHOOL COUNTY _____

TEACHER'S NAME _____

TEACHER'S E-MAIL _____

SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER _____

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN GRADE _____

NWS CONTACT OFFICE (City/State) _____

REGION (FOR NWS USE ONLY) _____

Use the following information to determine where to mail your winning posters.
Remember: The deadline is April 16th.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE CONTACT OFFICES

For: **Toledo/Marion Counties:** Crawford, Hancock, Lucas, Marion, Morrow, Ottawa, Sandusky, Seneca, Wood, Wyandot
North-Central Counties: Ashland, Cuyahoga, Erie, Holmes, Huron, Knox, Lorain, Medina, Richland, Wayne
Northeast Counties: Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Mahoning, Portage, Stark, Summit, Trumbull

Send to: National Weather Service Forecast Office, NOAA
Federal Facilities Building
5301 West Hangar Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44135
Attn: WCM

For: **West-Central Counties:** Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Darke, Greene, Hardin, Logan, Mercer, Miami, Montgomery, Preble, Shelby
Central Counties: Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Franklin, Hocking, Licking, Madison, Pickaway, Ross, Union
Southwest Counties: Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Hamilton, Highland, Pike, Scioto, Warren

Send to: National Weather Service Office, NOAA
1901 South State Route 134
Wilmington, Ohio 45177
Attn: WCM

For: **East-Central Counties**
Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson, Monroe, Muskingum, Noble, Tuscarawas

Send to: National Weather Service
192 Shafer Road
Coraopolis, Pennsylvania 15108
Attn: WCM

For: **Southeast Ohio Counties**
Athens, Gallia, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Morgan, Perry, Vinton, Washington

Send to: National Weather Service
400 Parkway Road
Charleston, West Virginia 25309
Attn: WCM

For: **Northwest Ohio Counties**
Allen, Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams

Send to: National Weather Service
7506 E-850 North
Syracuse, Indiana 46567
Attn: WCM