



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 2016

## 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 6, 2016**. 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](http://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 20-26, 2016**. Schools should mail their first place posters per grade level to their appropriate NWS office. Poster entries must be postmarked by April 16, 2016.

All regional winners will be invited to attend the awards ceremony at the Ohio State Fair on Saturday, **August 6, 2016**. 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 2016 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 1<sup>st</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> 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 20-26, 2016. Teachers should select their 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov). Go to **Just for Kids**. Click on **2016 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 6<sup>th</sup>.***

Additional information regarding the 2016 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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_ 2016 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