



**Governor Ted Strickland**

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 News Network

Ohio Department of Education  
Ohio Department of Health  
Ohio Department of Insurance  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Ohio Department of Public Safety - Ohio EMA  
Ohio Insurance Institute

January 2009

**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 individualized instruction classes 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 for 30 years. The purpose of the poster contest is to acknowledge students who have demonstrated through their artwork an understanding of the dangers of severe weather that typically affects Ohio, and how they can protect themselves and others from these dangers.

Participating schools send their first-place posters (per grade) to their regional National Weather Service offices by April 16 (see attached listing). The NWS offices will judge all poster entries and choose their top regional winners per grade. The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness will determine the state and overall state winners in early May. Schools will be notified of their regional winners by late May; all regional winners will be invited to the Ohio State Fair for an awards ceremony held in August.

All regional winners will receive prizes and awards such as entry tickets to the Ohio State Fair, certificates, first aid kits, calculators, pens and pencils, sports bottles, flashlights, weather safety activity books, etc., all packed inside a sports duffle bag or back pack. State-level winners will receive all of the above plus prizes including a letter from the governor, their posters framed, plaques, \$50 Savings Bonds, personal-sized rain gauges, and a smoke detector. The overall state winner will receive all of the above plus a \$100 Savings Bond, additional prizes from the committee's partners, a personalized trophy and a trophy to be displayed at the overall winner's school. The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness will use the overall state winning poster throughout the following year to help promote severe weather safety.

**How to Enter**

Complete contest rules and entry forms are available on the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness Web site: [www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov). Click on "OCSWA Poster Contest." Schools are encouraged to participate in the poster contest during Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week (**March 22-28, 2009**). Schools should forward their first place posters per grade level to their appropriate regional National Weather Service Office (see attached list). Poster entries must be postmarked by **April 16, 2009**. National Weather Service offices will judge entries and choose the regional winners per grade. The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness will judge all regional posters and choose the winning state-level poster per grade, and the overall state winning poster. All regional winners will be invited to attend an awards ceremony at the Ohio State Fair on August 8, 2009. The state-level winners and overall state winner will be announced near the end of the ceremony.

## Instructions and Rules for Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest

As part of the 2009 Severe Weather Awareness Week 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 classes. Participation is encouraged by all public, private and home schools. This contest serves as a valuable tool to help students learn about severe weather safety and preparedness.

- Any Ohio student in first through sixth grade is eligible to enter. If a student is home-schooled, or if the school as a whole does not participate in the poster 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.
- Posters 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.
- All artwork must be original. Crayons, markers, pencils, paints, etc. can be used. ***No computer generated artwork, text or photographs may be used.*** Clippings from magazines, newspapers or books may not be used.
- The back of the poster must clearly include the following information (please see and use the attached entry form)
  - Student's name, age and grade
  - Home address and county
  - Home phone number
  - Name of school, school's address, school's county, phone number, teacher's name and e-mail address
  - Regional National Weather Service office
- Schools are encouraged to conduct the poster contest during Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week (March 22-29, 2009). Teachers should select their first, second and third-place winners per grade. All first-place posters need to be submitted to the regional NWS offices (see attached list) by April 16.
- Blank certificates of participation will be available online at [www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov). Click on "OCSWA Poster Contest."
- All posters must be completed and mailed to regional NWS offices with a postmark dated no later than April 16, 2009.
- All entered posters become the property of the National Weather Service and the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness. Regional and state-level winning posters will be returned at the Ohio State Fair during the poster contest's awards ceremony on August 8, 2009.

If you have additional questions regarding the 2009 Ohio Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest or severe weather safety and preparedness, visit the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness Web site at [www.weathersafety.ohio.gov](http://www.weathersafety.ohio.gov) or contact Gary Garnet, National Weather Service – Cleveland, at (216) 265-2370, ext. 223 or Mitch Wilson, Ohio Insurance Institute, at (614) 228-1593.

**OHIO SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY POSTER CONTEST ENTRY FORM**  
(Place on back of poster)

**STUDENT'S NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**AGE** \_\_\_\_\_ **GRADE LEVEL** \_\_\_\_\_ **COUNTY** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP CODE** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME PHONE NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME OF SCHOOL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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  
Cleveland-Hopkins International Airport  
**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