



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 Natural Resources
Ohio Department of Public Safety -Ohio EMA
Ohio Department of Transportation
Ohio Insurance Institute
Ohio News Network

February 2012

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 top regional winners per grade. In early May, the Severe Weather Awareness Committee will judge the top regional 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 will receive tickets to the Ohio State Fair. The students will receive a host of prizes, certificates and awards, all packed inside a sports bag or back pack. State-level winners will receive additional prizes, a congratulatory letter from the governor, their posters framed, plaques, rain gauges, weather radios, smoke detectors, and \$50 savings bonds. The overall state winner will receive the regional and state-level prizes, 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.

All winning posters 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 25-31, 2012**. Schools should mail their first place posters per grade level to their appropriate NWS office. Poster entries must be postmarked by **April 16, 2012**.

All regional winners will be invited to attend the awards ceremony at the Ohio State Fair on Saturday, **August 4, 2012**. 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 2012 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. Crayons, markers, pencils, paints, etc. can be used. ***No computer-generated artwork, words or photographs may be used.*** No clippings from magazines, newspapers or books may be used.

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 25-31, 2012. 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 **2012 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 4, 2012.***

Additional information regarding the 2012 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
(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
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