



The 2023 Ohio Severe
Weather Awareness Poster
Contest Rules and Entry
Forms

2023 OHIO SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS POSTER CONTEST RULES

The Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness



2023 OHIO SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS POSTER CONTEST RULES

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2023 OHIO SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS POSTER CONTEST RULES

CONTEST SUMMARY

As part of the 2023 Severe Weather Awareness campaign, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (OCSWA) in cooperation with the National Weather Service and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency are proud to announce the annual Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest is open for submissions through April 21, 2023.

Since 1978, the Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness (OCSWA) has been dedicated in educating Ohioans about the natural disasters that typically affect the state and encourage Ohioans to plan and prepare for severe weather incidents before they happen. The poster contest is an excellent way to provide hands-on learning to younger Ohioans on severe weather safety and preparedness.

Through a news release, website updates and social media posts interested students are invited to participate. Ohio grade schools are notified about the contest and encouraged to provide their students the opportunity to use their creative thinking skills to design a poster based on severe weather safety and preparedness.

All poster entries must be postmarked or e-mailed by April 21, 2023

This contest is open to all Ohio students in first through sixth grade including individualized instruction (special education), public, private, and home school classes. If a student is home-schooled, or if the school is not participating in the contest, the student can still enter the contest by emailing his/her poster to their regional NWS Office or submitting his/her poster with a copy of these rules to his or her local school's office.

The 2023 Ohio Severe Weather Awareness Poster Contest documentation (including this document with entry forms) and safety and preparedness information can be found on the [Ohio Committee for Severe Weather Awareness website](#).

This poster contest serves as a valuable tool to help students learn about severe weather safety and preparedness. Through their illustrations of Ohio severe weather events (tornadoes, thunderstorms, flooding, heatwaves, and winter storms, etc.), students can demonstrate what actions they can take before, during and after severe weather events to protect themselves and others.

Dates to Remember:

- Ohio's Spring Severe Weather Awareness Week: March 19-25, 2023
- Statewide Tornado Drill: Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 9:50 am
- All poster entries must be postmarked or e-mailed by April 21, 2023

2023 OHIO SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS POSTER CONTEST RULES

TEACHERS - ENTERING IS EASY!

Deadline

- Schools are encouraged to participate in the poster contest anytime between now and the April 21st deadline.

Step 01 – Students Create Artwork and Entry Criteria

- Severe weather awareness posters must cover one of these categories: tornadoes, flooding, thunder & lightning storms, winter storms, or extreme heat (heat waves)
- All submissions must be the student's original artwork
- Posters must show how people can protect themselves from one of Ohio's weather hazards and include a written safety message
- Judging: Posters will be judged on originality, effort, and technical correctness
- Computer/digitally generated artwork and text can be used in students' posters, and students can also draw posters using crayons, markers, pencils, paints, stencils, etc.
- Size of entry: Posters can be either landscape or portrait. Poster size cannot exceed 11" x 17" paper
- Students cannot use: photographs, copyright-protected material, nor clippings from magazines, newspapers, or books
- All entries must be original artwork by the student

Step 02 – Teachers Select Classroom Winners and Give Out Certificates to Participants

- For participating schools, teachers in each grade can select a certificate and add the winning students name and grade level. There are also participation certificates so each student that enters can proudly display their certificate. These can be printed and the participating students name can be added.
- Teachers can award certificates to these winners, as well as participation certificates, to their students. The certificate templates can be found online at www.weathersafety.ohio.gov).

Step 03 – Teachers Mail First Place Poster from Class to National Weather Service

- Teachers/Schools send the first-place posters for each grade level to the appropriate National Weather Service Office by Friday, April 21st (see attached list of offices – last page)

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Completed Entries

- Original posters can either be delivered via US mail or emailed to their regional NWS office by the Friday, April 21, 2023 deadline
- Posters sent by US mail must be postmarked by April 21 and emailed submissions must have a sent date on or before April 21, 2023
- Posters being mailed can attach Entry Form to the back
- Participating schools should send their first-place posters (per grade or special education class) to their regional National Weather Service Forecast Office (see NWS contacts on last page)
- Each of the NWS offices will judge the poster entries received by April 21 and choose their No. 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
- Each poster entry must clearly include the following information. See Entry Form located on page 6.
 - Student's First and Last Name
 - Age and Grade
 - Home Address and County
 - Parent's/Guardian's Phone Number
 - School's Name, Address, County, Phone Number | Teacher's Name and E-mail Address
 - Regional National Weather Service Forecast Office

Notes on Submissions

- 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 at the end of the poster contest's awards ceremony

Additional information regarding the 2023 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.

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CONTEST WINNERS

There are three categories for winning entries: Regional, State and Overall State Winners. Below is information on the what prizes each level will receive. Please note that prizes change annually and substitutions may be made at OCSWA's discretion. Updates on the contest will be posted to the OCSWA website as appropriate.

Winners will be invited to attend the awards ceremony at the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy, next to the Ohio State Fair, on **Saturday, August 5, 2023**. Winners who attend the ceremony will receive two tickets to enjoy the rest of the day at the Ohio State Fair. The overall state winner will receive four tickets to the fair.

The state grade-level winners and the overall state winner will be announced near the end of the ceremony.

Regional Winners

- At the awards ceremony, regional winners will receive a certificate and an assortment of prizes OCSWA and its partners.

State Winners

- State-level winners (grades 1-6 and special education) will receive a letter of congratulations from Ohio Governor Mike DeWine in addition to being awarded additional prizes.

Overall State Winner

- The overall state winner will receive a letter of congratulations from Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and four tickets to the Center of Science and Industry (COSI) museum in Columbus.

THE TRAVELING TROPHY

- The Ohio Severe Weather Poster Contest Traveling Trophy will be presented to the overall winner's school to display for the remainder of the year when school resumes in the fall.

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OHIO SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY POSTER CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Print and attach one form on the back of each poster being mailed;
Include this form with each e-mailed poster entry.

STUDENT'S NAME _____

AGE: _____ GRADE LEVEL: _____ COUNTY: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: Ohio ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE / PARENT or GUARDIAN: _____

NAME OF SCHOOL: _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____

SCHOOL CITY: _____ STATE: OHIO ZIP: _____

SCHOOL'S COUNTY: _____

TEACHER'S NAME: _____

TEACHER'S E-MAIL: _____

SCHOOL'S PHONE NUMBER: _____

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN GRADE: _____

NWS CONTACT OFFICE (City/State): _____

REGION (FOR NWS USE ONLY) _____

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NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST OFFICE CONTACTS

Use the following information to determine where to mail your winning posters.

Reminder: Posters must be postmarked or e-mailed by Friday, April 21st, 2023.

National Weather Service – Cleveland Office 925 Keynote Circle, Suite 314, Brooklyn Heights, OH 44131 E-mail: nwscl@noaa.gov	
Counties	Toledo/Marion-Area 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

National Weather Service – Wilmington Office 1901 South State Route 134, Wilmington, Ohio 45177 E-mail: iln.webmaster@noaa.gov	
Counties	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

National Weather Service – Pittsburgh Office 192 Shafer Road, Coraopolis, Pennsylvania 15108 E-mail: pit-comments@noaa.gov	
Counties	East-Central Counties: Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Guernsey, Harrison, Jefferson, Monroe, Muskingum, Noble, Tuscarawas

National Weather Service – Charleston Office 400 Parkway Road, Charleston, West Virginia 25309 E-mail: rlx.webmaster@noaa.gov	
Counties	Southeast Ohio Counties: Athens, Gallia, Jackson, Lawrence, Meigs, Morgan, Perry, Vinton, Washington

National Weather Service – Northern Indiana Office 7506 E-850 North, Syracuse, Indiana 46567 E-mail: w-iwx.webmaster@noaa.gov	
Counties	Northwest Ohio Counties: Allen, Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams