



# Virginia Department of State Police

## Virginia's Missing Children Clearinghouse

Dear 5<sup>th</sup> Grader:

I am writing today to invite you to participate in Virginia's first Missing Children's Day Poster Contest. In March, three winning entries will be selected from Virginia schools, with the first place winner going on to compete nationally. If you win the national contest, you, your parents, and your teacher will receive a free trip to Washington, DC. At the National Missing Children's Day Ceremony, the winner of the poster contest receives an award and the winning poster is used to help educate and keep kids safe. Last year's national winner from Ohio said:

*. . . Winning the National Missing Children's Poster Contest has been amazing. My State honored me in a ceremony at my school. Lots of important people in our government showed up, along with my family and friends. I also met our Governor in Columbus. Then we traveled to Washington...Being there really made me think about how big of a difference this contest can make. I entered because I wanted to help bring missing children home to see their parents."*

This year's theme is "Bringing Our Missing Children Home." Rules for the poster contest were sent to your teacher, who will go over them with you and your classmates. Along with creating the poster, you will need to fill out a form that tells us a little bit about you and about what your poster means.

As you work on this project remember that there are many people who are doing everything they can to keep kids just like you safe. If you have questions about things that you can do to stay safe, talk to your teacher, your parents or other trusted adults – they want you to be safe, too, and will help you.

Thank you for making a poster for our contest and helping spread this important message. Good Luck! I hope to see you next May during our award ceremony.

Sincerely,

Lieutenant Pete Fagan  
Virginia's Missing Children Clearinghouse Manager  
Virginia Department of State Police

Colonel W. Steven Flaherty  
Superintendent  
Virginia State Police