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AG Derek Schmidt and KBI announce National Missing Children's Day poster contest

TOPEKA – (December 6, 2018) – The Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) is accepting entries for the 2019 Missing Children's Day poster contest, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt announced today.

All Kansas 5th grade students, from public, private, or home schools, are invited to create and submit artwork that represents the contest theme "Bringing Our Missing Children Home." The artwork must be original, handcrafted, 8 ½ x 14 inches in size, and contain the words "Bringing Our Missing Children Home."

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed May 25 as National Missing Children's Day. The annual national poster contest sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention creates an opportunity for schools, law enforcement and child advocates to discuss the issue of missing and/or exploited children with youth, parents and guardians and to promote child safety.

"This contest creates awareness for the children who are missing, while also providing parents and teachers an opportunity to talk to kids about what to do if they're approached by strangers," Schmidt said.

KBI Director Kirk Thompson added, "We'd like fifth graders to enter artwork in this contest, but ask parents to take time to discuss safety measures no matter the age of their child."

The statewide winner will have the opportunity to visit the Kansas Capitol and meet the governor, the attorney general, and the KBI director. The winner's poster will also represent Kansas in the national contest. The national poster contest winner, along with his or her parents and teacher, will be awarded a trip to Washington, D.C., to participate in the National Missing Children's Day ceremony in May 2019.

Entries must be received by February 1, 2019. Complete contest rules and application forms are available at <http://bit.ly/2g0efCH>.

Kansas has been participating in the annual "Bringing Our Missing Children Home" poster contest since 2008. The 2018 state contest winner was 11-year-old Emma Johnson of Colby, who attends Sacred Heart Catholic School. Emma's winning poster can be viewed at <http://www.kansas.gov/kbi/news/42418.shtml>.

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