

## Boarman Youth Poster Contest FAQs

1. **QUESTION:** Why is USPS interested in working with Children?

**ANSWER:** Children learn and absorb faster than anyone. They in turn take what they learn home and share with their family. When they grow up, they will remember USPS when they need a license, or purchase a boat of their own. If you remember the environmental movement, it grew because of children learning about it at school and bringing it into their homes. Same with Apple Computers – schools bought reduced priced Apple computers, and the children are now in the workforce using and purchasing Apples. They bought iPods (a pre-teen/teenager item), then iPhones and now iPads. Plus, for those children that live around boats, beach communities, islands, etc. they need to know the safety.

2. **QUESTION:** I would like to have my grandchildren participate, but our squadron has the contest at organizations. Then the winners are judged at the squadron. Can my grandchildren still participate? Do they have to live in my area?

**ANSWER:** Yes! Do not turn away any child who wants to participate. The point is to get as many children involved in safe boating as possible. For each organization participating, have a contest within the organization. Then at the squadron level, have all the winners compete and include your grandchildren. Have different judges for the organization judging than for the squadron judges, if that is a concern. The bottom line, the squadron can arrange the contest however they see fit to ensure all children are included. Any child can participate regardless if they live in your area or not. Have them send the posters to a squadron member and submit the poster through their squadron.

3. **QUESTION:** Does a squadron member have to be present while the child draws or designs their poster?

**ANSWER:** No. In some situations, it is easier to drop off the supplies and have another adult assist as needed.

4. **QUESTION:** Does a squadron member have to give a presentation to the children?

**ANSWER:** No. Though we prefer that a squadron member be able to speak to the children about safe boating, it is not required. If you can provide the adult handling the event with an outline or an idea sheet of topics and tips they can talk about while the children are drawing, this will help get our message across.

5. **QUESTION:** Do I have to provide drawing paper?

**ANSWER:** No. But if you can afford it, it will help expedite the process to get the posters back from the children.

6. **QUESTION:** Where can I find the paper?

**ANSWER:** You can order it from [www.geographics.com](http://www.geographics.com). You might find it at a local office supply store or website and be able to cut it down. NOTE: Even if you buy the paper somewhere else, most printing stores offer a cutter to make the edges straight and you can do it yourself, for free.

7. **QUESTION:** What is the best way to handle the judging?

**ANSWER:** There are multiple ways this can happen. You can have the judging at a squadron meeting or district fall conference, or you can have it at a Cruise and Rendezvous. If you are in a time crunch, you can even ask the bridge to handle it at an Executive Meeting or other event. Your choice, but the winner's submission forms must be sent to national ([youth@usps.org](mailto:youth@usps.org)) but 1 January.

8. **QUESTION:** Any suggestions on the timeline for a squadron to promote the contest?

**ANSWER:** Yes, the national contest starts 1 January each year. Plan which organizations you are going to approach to have participate in the contest. If you are approaching only schools, you may find getting in prior to the summer break is the best for the children. Once you make your presentation or give the poster boards out to be drawn, set a short deadline of 1 or 2 weeks for the students to have them ready for pickup. Have the

squadron level judging happen as close to the pickup dates as possible. This helps keep the momentum for the children. Once the judging is completed, it will be time to go back to the organization to present the awards prior to the summer break. Why? Because some children will move to another school in the fall and it will be harder to find them to give them the awards. If your squadron plans on promoting over the summer, when school is out, be mindful of the best approach to ensure the children are not left hanging for a year until they hear if they won an award or not.

9. **QUESTION:** Children are anxious and don't want to wait a year for an award! Can't we give them the national award sooner?

**ANSWER:** Every squadron and district is faced with different hurdles in their area than in other areas. Because of this, they have designed the contest based on their needs. The national committee has determined that in order to support everyone, the national judging and awards will be given out at the National Annual Meeting each year. The squadrons and districts can manage their own contest as needed for their area during this time period.

10. **QUESTION:** What can I do at the District Level to help promote this contest?

**ANSWER:** First, within your own squadron, get the executive committee to agree to provide awards. Second, come up with a plan and timeline of how and when to approach the child organizations. Advertise the contest in your own squadron for member's children and grandchildren to participate. Get volunteers to think of organizations that they can contact and encourage them to go out and get the posters. Contact other squadrons in your district and assist them in getting a similar plan in place. Provide handouts at district conferences and C&Rs that they can take back and pass on as needed. Maybe even offer the poster contest to the adults at a C&R and see what they come up with as a way to build the enthusiasm. The more squadrons that participate, the more the word is getting out about USPS in your district area.

11. **QUESTION:** If I have questions, concerns, suggestions or feedback, who should I send it to?

**ANSWER:** Send an email to [youth@usps.org](mailto:youth@usps.org) with the subject line of "USPS Youth PC – Feedback"

12. **QUESTION:** Ok, I have the posters and the winners from district, now what do I do?

**ANSWER:** Before 1 January, send the list of winners, all info from the winning submission forms, the winning position, the submitters name and district number to [youth@usps.org](mailto:youth@usps.org). Please make sure the submission forms on the posters are legible and all names are spelled correctly. A list will be created of all district entries/emails received. The district person will ensure all winners are received at the USPS Annual Meeting by Noon on Thursday. When national receives the list of district entries, an email will be sent back with specific details for delivery of the posters at the Annual Meeting. Be sure and read the Rules and Application on the membership committee website to ensure all requirements are met. We are trying to expedite the award process at national to ensure the children get their monetary award as fast as possible. By providing your district winner information to [youth@usps.org](mailto:youth@usps.org) in advance, we can ensure your entrants are included and get the fastest possible service. National should have 99 entries if all districts participate.

13. **QUESTION:** These children have worked so hard and how can we get the most out of the contest?

**ANSWER:** Make the winners and participants feel special by offering an awards ceremony/presentation. Gather other squadron members, have a picnic, and take the child and their family out on a boat. This may be their only exposure to boating. You can plan anything you like. Get your Public Relations chairman involved and have some press written up on the occasion. Call and invite the TV station and they may put it on TV as well if it is a slow news day. Offer them a free meal.