



More Tips for Successful Poster Contest Participation



1. Children will select either one of the icons to enter.
2. You must follow the rules that include how you identify the poster.
3. Please check the spelling. Posters with spelling errors will be disqualified.
4. Any group of children can participate. Scout troops, after-school programs, and the like are perfectly appropriate. Make sure the child's grade is included on the poster so that the participant can compete in their correct grade category.
5. Try providing poster paper to children in order to initiate the program.
6. The members of the National Garden Clubs, Inc., can purchase Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl promotional and educational products at the National Symbols Cache Website, located at www.symbols.gov.
7. You are encouraged to offer certificates of appreciation to all participants. Certificates are available for download at www.fs.usda.gov/conservationeducation and at www.gardenclub.org.
8. Collaboration between the Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. is important. You can contribute to this collaborative effort by completing the feedback form included in the Poster Contest materials. The Forest Service invests taxpayers' money in keeping this partnership alive and you can help justify the use of these funds by providing an estimate of your outreach efforts with the Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl poster contest.
9. The Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl poster contest is an opportunity for local Garden Clubs to connect with their communities. We encourage you to use the contest to promote your club, attract children and their parents, and raise awareness of the importance of caring for the environment.
10. Please copy your winning posters as they will not be returned.
11. If you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Elaine Dates at elainedates@comcast.net or Iris Velez at ivelez@fs.fed.us.

Thank you so much for your support and commitment to the partnership between the National Garden Clubs, Inc. and the Forest Service. And remember:

Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!

Lend a Hand, Care for the Land!



Frequently Asked Questions

Who can participate? Any child from first grade to fifth grade can participate in the contest. The student must have the endorsement of a local Garden Club.

Can children outside a school group participate in the contest? Of course, children from local scout troops, church groups, and homeschooling programs can participate as long as they get the support of a local Garden Club.

Can past winners participate again? Absolutely!

Can a student have both Smokey and Woodsy together in the same poster? No. Contest participants must choose which icon they would like to showcase in their poster.

Do they have to include the slogan in the poster? This is a must! Contest participants must include the slogan that goes with the icon selected. Those who choose Smokey Bear must include: Only you can prevent wildfires! Those who choose Woodsy Owl must include: Lend a hand, care for the land.

Could students do a poster by pasting their artwork on another paper? Yes, just make sure the poster is flat. 3-D posters will not be accepted.

Can a student use just the head of Woodsy or Smokey? Definitely!

I coordinated my group's participation in this year's poster contest, how can I reward their efforts? We encourage you to organize a recognition ceremony and give one certificate to every child who participated in the contest! We have developed a Certificate of Participation that you can download from our Web sites. And, if you have a national forest nearby, you may want to contact your local Forest Service office and ask if Smokey or Woodsy can come and join the recognition ceremony. You can find a national forest near you by visiting www.fs.usda.gov/conservationeducation.

I am a local poster contest coordinator and I need materials to market the poster contest with local organizations. Who should I contact?

If you are a National Garden Clubs, Inc. local coordinator for the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl poster contest, you should contact your state or regional chairman for the poster contest. You can also download promotional materials from www.fs.usda.gov/conservationeducation and www.gardenclub.org.

What happens to the posters that compete for the national grand prize? These posters become property of the Forest Service. They ARE NOT returned to the children who won the national categories. We encourage participants and state and regional chairmen for the poster contest to make electronic copies of the posters they submit. Again, national winning posters are not returned!

