

Bat Rabies Prevention Poster Contest - Instructions for Teachers

1. Poster submissions should suggest ways to prevent rabies exposures and infections from bats. Please remind students that bats are an important part of our ecosystem and that most bats are not rabid. However, the bats students are most likely to come into contact with have a fairly high probability of being infected with rabies. Remind students to NOT touch bats or other wild animals. Stress the importance of rabies vaccinations for dogs, cats, ferrets and livestock (in frequent contact with people). Remind students that they need to tell an adult immediately any time they see a bat out of its natural habitat (on the ground, flying around the house, etc).
2. More information on rabies can be found at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "Just for Kids" rabies webpage: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/kidsrabies and the Texas Department of State Health Services rabies webpage: <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/rabies/> . For additional information about bats, visit the Bat Conservation International webpage: <http://www.batcon.org/>.
3. Texas residents in kindergarten to 8th grade are eligible to participate.
4. Poster content and drawings must be original. Posters must be on unlined paper and be at least 8½" by 11" and may not exceed 11" by 17".
5. Teachers, please submit your students' posters to your school nurse (or designated staff member) for judging.
6. Send the top choice from K-5th grade and 6-8th grade to represent your school (one each – total of 2). An entry form (see below) must be attached to each poster.
7. *Submit posters to Bonny Mayes, Texas Department of State Health Services, Zoonosis Control Branch, MC-1956, P.O. Box 149347, Austin, TX 78714-9347. Posters **must** be received by 5 pm, Sept. 30, 2009.
8. Posters submitted from all over the state will be judged on or before Oct. 30, 2009 – the winners' teachers will be notified via phone and/or email the week of Nov. 2, 2009.
9. There will be a first, second, and third place prize for each age group (*prizes provided by the Zach Jones Memorial Fund* – for more information visit: <http://www.zachjonesmemorial.org/>). First prize is an iPod touch. Second prize is a \$50 Walmart Gift Card. Third prize is a bat T-shirt.
10. The first place winners and their teachers will be asked to take photographs when students accept their prizes. Students' parents/guardians must sign a consent form provided by DSHS upon notification of the award.
11. The classroom of the winning (1st place) artist from each age group will be treated to a pizza party (*provided by the Zach Jones Memorial Fund*). This is limited to 40 students.
12. The artwork from the top ranking posters will be consolidated into a single poster which will be made available for downloading from the DSHS web page. All posters become the property of the Texas Department of State Health Services.

***Please attach a completed copy of this form to each poster that will represent your school.**

In addition, please write students name, age and school on the back of the poster.

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher's Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

School Nurse's Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

School Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip Code: _____

All entries must be received by the Texas Department of State Health Services, Zoonosis Control Branch,
MC-1956, P.O. Box 149347, Austin, TX 78714-9347 by 5 pm, Sept. 30, 2009.