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# Poster Contest Criteria & Judging

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The Poster Contest is an optional activity designed to reinforce the Tar Wars lesson and illustrate the positive effects of being tobacco-free through original and creative poster designs.

## Criteria

The AAFP Tar Wars national office has set the following criteria for poster submissions. Please be sure to go over these with the students to ensure compliance and avoid disqualification.

- Only fourth- and fifth-grade students who have had the Tar Wars presentation are eligible to submit posters for the contest.
- Posters must incorporate creative and original artwork and ideas. Depictions of cartoon, video game, and movie/television characters; celebrities; movie themes; and past poster designs does not constitute creativity and originality.
- Posters should deliver a clear and positive message about being tobacco-free. Death themes and art displaying negative health consequences are not considered positive messages. A small no smoking symbol is acceptable.
- Any mention of copyrighted brand or product images should not be used.
- Student should be mindful of proper spelling and grammar.
- Posters must be no larger than standard poster board size (22" x 28") and no smaller than 8 1/2" x 11".
- Posters should not be laminated or mounted on mat board. Also, do not staple or glue entry forms to the backs of posters. **DO NOT WRITE NAMES ON FRONT OF POSTER.**
- Students may use a variety of media, such as watercolor, pen and ink, crayon, chalk, markers, etc. Keep in mind that winning posters may be reproduced or reprinted, so clear artwork and easy to read messages are best.
- Students may not work in pairs.
- **Students should not put their name or other identifying information on the front of their poster.**
- **Failure to comply with the guidelines could result in a disqualification of the poster.**

## School Judging

Each school should choose its own team of judges. This team may be comprised of art teachers, parents, older students, school board officials, local artists, PTA/PTO members, community leaders, or local media personalities.

Posters should be judged on their artistry, creativity, originality, and their ability to communicate a clear and positive message to remain tobacco-free.

Only ONE winning poster should be selected to represent each school.

## Submitting Posters for the State Contest

Your school's winning poster should be sent to the state coordinator by the posted deadline.

The official Poster Contest Entry Form and Authorized Release Form must accompany your poster submission. Winning posters submitted to the IAFP Tar Wars State Poster Contest become property of the IAFP Tar Wars Program and will not be returned.

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