

Poster Contest Guidelines

Important Information Regarding State and National Poster Contest Deadlines The poster contest is an integral part of the Tar Wars program and reinforces the tobacco-free message presented during the classroom presentation. Please participate in the poster contest by sending your school's winning poster to your Tar Wars state coordinator for the state poster contest by **March 1, 2012**.

Poster Contest Criteria The AAFP Tar Wars national office has set the following criteria for poster submissions. Please be sure to review these with your students to ensure compliance and avoid disqualification. Posters submitted to the state poster contest that do not adhere to these criteria may be disqualified.

- Only fourth- and fifth-grade students who have attended 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 do not constitute creativity and originality.
- Posters must deliver a **clear and positive** message about being tobacco-free. Death themes and art displaying negative health consequences (ie, cigarettes, ashtrays, coffins, people smoking, etc.) are not considered positive messages.
- Posters must be no larger than standard poster board size (22" x 28") and no smaller than 8.5" x 11".
- Posters should not be laminated or mounted on mat board. Also, do not staple, glue, or tape entry forms to the backs of posters.
- Students should refrain from writing their name or other identifying information on the front of their poster. Poster contest entry numbers should not be marked on the front of posters either.
- Students may use a variety of media, such as watercolor, pen and ink, crayon, chalk, markers, etc.
- Computer clip art, pictures from magazines and other print media, or any other copyrighted brand or product images will not be accepted.
- Students may not work in pairs.
- Attach the AAFP Tar Wars official poster contest entry form to the winning poster. Please do not staple, tape, or glue this form to the poster.
- Send the winning poster to your state coordinator by the state's deadline.
- **Failure to comply with the guidelines could result in disqualification of the poster.**

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. Posters should also be judged on their compliance with the criteria listed above.

Submitting Posters for the State/National Contest - Your school's winning poster(s) should be sent to the WV Tar Wars Program Coordinator. The [official poster contest entry form](#) and [authorized release form](#) must accompany your poster submission. Winning state posters submitted to the West Virginia and AAFP Tar Wars National Poster Contest become property of the WV/AAFP Tar Wars program and will not be returned.

Follow Up - Once you've held the poster contest and sent the winning poster to your state coordinator, you may want to consider doing something special with the other posters. Here are a few ideas:

- Display posters in classrooms, display cases, the library, or cafeteria.
- Contact local businesses, city offices, or shopping malls about displaying posters.
- Present each judge with a poster as a "thank you" gift and send posters to all of your speakers.
- Ask the local telephone company to consider using a poster for their phone book cover.
- Create a calendar showcasing the students' posters and use it as a fundraising project for your school.