

Camping Is Contest Tips

Overview

The Camping Is contest uses art to help a child illustrate what camping means to them. Children up to age 4 color a specially designed page while children ages 5 –12 create a poster. There has been some confusion in previous years regarding the rules of the contest so we are going to try to clarify the contest here as well as give some hints on setting up a Camping Is contest at a State or Provincial campout.

1. Children in the age groups 0-2 and 3-4 color the specially designed coloring page. This coloring page changes each year, with the new page being handed out during Campvention. Beginning in 2007, the year the contest page is good in will be worked into the design, hopefully reducing the chances of the wrong coloring page being used.
2. **RULE CHANGE:** In previous years, children doing the coloring contest in the age groups 0-2 and 3-4 could not use markers to color their pictures. **This has been changed starting with the 2007 contests. Coloring contest entries may now use any non-electronic means to color the picture.** Non-electronic means the child cannot use a computer paint program to color in the picture. They must use the black and white version and color it using markers, crayons, color pencils, finger paints, etc.
3. Entries that come to campvention and are incorrect cannot be judged for a ribbon or trophy. They will however, receive a participation award as we feel that an adult somewhere along the way should have been familiar with the rules and made sure that the entry was correct.

Guidelines for Setting up a Camping Is Contest

The following guidelines can be used to set up a Camping Is contest in a state/province that has not had the contest before, or to supplement an existing youth program.

Encourage Participation

1. The Camping Is contest should be set up at a spring statewide or province-wide campout. This should help with entries as typically more people attend these campouts.
2. Encourage participation in the contest by having poster board, markers, crayons and copies of the coloring page available at the campout
3. Set aside some time at the campout for the children to create their posters or coloring the coloring page. If your state/province has a program or schedule adding the poster making to the schedule can help increase participation.
4. Allow children who cannot attend the campout to send their entries along with someone else or mail them to a point person.
5. Children should use art, pictures and words to illustrate and describe what camping means to them. Try to discourage the use of last names being used in the posters as it can be unsafe for the child to have their name displayed and may also be seen as trying to sway the judges (even though it is the farthest thing from that in the child's mind)

Collect the Entries

1. Specify a time and place at the campout when the posters/coloring pages will be collected. Again, if there is a schedule/program, adding the time/location to the program will make the contest more visible.
2. When an entry is turned in, be sure to check that the child's information is entered correctly on the back left corner of the poster/coloring page. Be sure the following information is included:
 - a. Name, First and Last
 - b. City and State/Province
 - c. Birthdate in mm/dd/yyyy format
 - d. Age as of July 1 in the contest year
 - e. Local chapter name if applicable
3. A Field Director should stamp or sign the poster/coloring page verifying that the child is an FCRV member.
4. Please allow children who are not FCRV members to also include posters in the contest if they are attending the campout. This allows someone friend/cousin/guest to participate and not be singled out for not being a member. These entries will NOT have a Field Director's stamp/signature and should not be judged for first place (see more details in the Judging section below.)
5. Make sure the correct Coloring Page is used (will have the year incorporated in the design, starting in 2007). Also make sure that standard sized poster board is used for the posters. Poster may be displayed either horizontally or vertically and may use any color poster board.

Display the Entries

1. Arrange and display the entries in the following age groups:
 - a. Coloring Contest:
 - i. Ages 0-2
 - ii. Ages 3-4
 - b. Poster Contest
 - i. Ages 5-6
 - ii. Ages 7-8
 - iii. Ages 9-10
 - iv. Ages 11-12
2. If possible, display the entries in a well-traveled indoor (or protected from the weather) location at your campout.
3. Entries that will not be judged for first place (non-FCRV members) should be subtly marked or displayed in such a way as to be easily pointed out to your judges. (see more details in the Judging section below.)

Judge the Entries

1. Appoint your judge or judges. The number of entries may determine the number of judges you use. Three judges seem to work out well and is the number of judges that are used at the National Campvention.
2. Judges should not have any friends or family members with entries in the Camping Is contest.
3. Remind your judges that first place entries will be going to the National Campvention to represent your State/Province.
4. Point out entries that are not to be judged for first place (not FCRV members, entry submitted in incorrect format, etc.) Only FCRV members can represent your state/province at the National Campvention.
Note: This is a membership opportunity – if someone really wants his or her child’s work judged or the clear standout entry is a non-FCRV member – joining FCRV before the judging will allow the child’s entry to receive the first place award if the judges deem it worthy.
5. Judges should pick a first, second and third place in each age group (assuming there are enough entries in an age group for that many entries.)

Distribute Awards

1. First place winners should get some type of recognition, be it a ribbon, trophy, medal or certificate. If you have the budget available you may want to give the first place winners an additional prize (could be a gift card, art supplies, flowers, etc. Just something to make the win more special)
2. You may also want to give ribbons, medals or certificates to the second and third place winners.
3. You may give out more awards, such as fourth and fifth place, or an honorable mention, or maybe a tie for third place (if there are four entries in an age group and you had only purchased or made ribbons to third place.)
4. Feel free to make awards or certificates as needed. Sample certificates featuring Bizzy Beaver will be placed on the website, available for download in PDF format.
5. If possible, announce the contest winners and distribute the awards in front of your state/province membership in attendance at your campout, perhaps during an evening gathering. Have children come up and hold their poster or coloring page. Don’t forget to applaud their hard work!
6. First place winning posters and coloring pages should be kept and brought or sent to the National Campvention. You should bring no more than two coloring pages and four posters from your State/Province to the National Campvention, one winner in each age group.