

CONNECTICUT FIRE PREVENTION POSTER COMMITTEE

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COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

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Robert Norton Jr.

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The *Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Recognition Program* was initiated 36 years ago to provide teachers with materials and resources to teach lifesaving fire safety lessons to our children. Children, among the most vulnerable of our population, are also the most likely to learn and to retain the fire safety message. Our intention is to develop fire safety awareness in children so that they can contribute to promoting fire prevention for everyone in their family every day.

Recognition program sponsors are as follows: The Connecticut Fire Marshals' Association, Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, Office of the State Fire Marshal, Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association, State Board of Education and the Connecticut FAIR Plan (representing the insurance industry).

Our theme has remained consistent for each of the 36 years we have organized this initiative; "Fire Prevention-Everyone/Everyday. Our program provides the opportunity to potentially save a life and we cannot think of a time when it is not critical to imprint this valuable message onto our community members.

Our recognition program begins each year on October 1st and runs through the end of November. It is open to all 4th and 5th grade students within the State of Connecticut.

The first place winning posters are submitted for judging on the county level. Our judging panel consists of retired art teachers. Two county winners from each grade will be chosen and a state winner will be chosen from this selection. The state winner will be used to promote fire prevention throughout the State of Connecticut and will be the official State poster.

County winners receive monetary awards of \$150.00 each and are recognized alongside their families and school faculty at an annual luncheon. The state-wide winner is announced during this celebration. This student will receive an additional \$750.00 award and his/her school will receive a \$500.00 grant. A full lunch buffet is provided with entertainment. Our emcee is Kevin Nathan, co-anchor for the evening NBC Connecticut News and a brief news clip usually follows the event on the 4:00 or 5:30 news. In 2019 we were especially excited to host CT State troopers with the Fire and Explosive Unit and their K-9 partners.

All winning posters on the county level will be exhibited at the State Capitol during the month of October.

Sadly we have noticed a significant decrease in participation over the years. We are seeking assistance from the State Board of Education to promote our program and communicate the importance of its message. Our hope is to explore possibilities to increase awareness at the elementary school level. We are mindful of the stressors that our school communities manage and are open to any and all suggestions on incorporating this invaluable lesson into the classroom.

We implore you to pledge your support for this educational recognition program. The influence of fire safety education particularly among school age children who take the lesson home with them cannot be overestimated. Students will increase their knowledge about fire safety and take part in a creative, exciting activity that will help to prevent fires and save lives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Fire Prevention - Everyone/Everyday
Connecticut Fire Prevention Poster Recognition Committee