

2012 FAIR HOUSING POSTER AND ESSAY CONTEST

The month of April is designated as Fair Housing Month, to commemorate Congress passing the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which includes the Fair Housing Act. To celebrate this significant movement in our history, the Wisconsin Fair Housing Network is once again sponsoring a Fair Housing Poster and Essay Contest. The purpose of the poster and/or essay is to demonstrate non-discriminatory housing for all people regardless of race, sex, color, national origin, disability or family status. The 2012 theme is:

“FAIR HOUSING: A CLEAR PATH FOR ALL”

In past years, we have received requests for a structured lesson plan to teach the main concepts of Fair Housing. This contest is very open-ended and you may take a great deal of liberty when teaching about fair housing. But, to provide some guidance, we have put together some key points you may want to include when talking to your students about fair housing.

What is Fair Housing? The Fair Housing Act states it is illegal to discriminate in the sale or rental of housing, or make housing otherwise unavailable because of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, marital status, disability, lawful source of income, or familial status. Although the law was passed over 40 years ago, discriminatory practices continue.

What are some common examples of Fair Housing violations?

- Minorities or families with children are told an apartment is already rented when, in fact, it is not.
- A woman trying to buy a home is held to a higher purchase standard than a man.
- A single woman with children is denied an apartment but a married couple with the same number of children is not.
- **Steering**. a realtor only shows apartments or houses in certain neighborhoods that are prominent in a specific race or national origin.
- Segregation by floor, building or development based on race, national origin, etc.
- Refusing to allow reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities (example . leasing a 2nd floor apartment to a wheelchair-bound tenant in a building without an elevator)

Purpose of the contest:

- To create awareness in school aged children of the importance of providing equal opportunities to people of all races, colors, genders, etc.
- To creatively express an understanding of today's fair housing challenges through designing a poster or writing their thoughts in an essay.
- To elicit students' thoughts and suggestions of ways to solve the problem of Fair Housing violations.

What will the future of fair housing look like in your area? Let us know about the importance of fair and open housing where you live. Better yet, show your community how great the future will be with fair and open housing for everyone. Fair housing affects renters, landlords, buyers and sellers, lenders and insurers- it affects you.

A school, local unit of government, neighborhood organization or other community group may sponsor a Fair Housing Poster and/or Essay Contest at the local level. The sponsoring agency will then **submit the top winning entries** for each grade level to the state for the statewide competition. The date for submission of the posters and essays to the State is **April 16, 2012**. Additional submission information is contained on the enclosed sheets.

The Fair Housing Poster and Essay Contest is an important educational activity to promote the concepts of choice and equality in housing:

- The Poster Contest is open to Wisconsin residents in grades K-12, including Special Education. One poster representing the efforts of an entire group or class will also be accepted.
- The Essay Contest is open to children in grades 4-12.

If you have any questions regarding the Fair Housing Poster and Essay Contest, please feel free to contact:

Betty Kalscheur
Division of Housing
Wisconsin Department of Administration
101 East Wilson Street (53703)
P.O. Box 7970
Madison, WI 53707-7970
608/267-6904
Betty.Kalscheur@Wisconsin.gov

For additional information about fair housing you may want to visit these websites:

http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/er/discrimination_civil_rights/discrimination.htm

<http://www.civilrights.org/fairhousing/laws>

<http://www.fairhousingwisconsin.com/housingrights.html>

<http://www.realtor.org>

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/fair_housing_equal_opp/library



POSTER CONTEST SUBMISSION INFORMATION

THEME

The sponsoring organization should provide information to participants about the meaning of fair housing. Participants should be made aware that the theme is designed to reflect equal opportunity in housing choice and that **the posters will be judged based on the theme**. The posters should convey imagery and/or wording reflecting the theme. The theme is:

“FAIR HOUSING: A CLEAR PATH FOR ALL”

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

The Poster Contest is open to Wisconsin residents in Grades K-12. Entries to the state contest will be grouped K-3, 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12 for the State judging.

POSTER SPECIFICATIONS

Although there are not any size requirements, the posters should not exceed a size that can be mailed without doing damage to the poster. Suggested materials include, but are not limited to, markers, colored pencils, crayons, paint, and construction paper. Contestants should not be discouraged from participation due to the unavailability of suggested materials.

LABELING

Each entry to the State poster contest must include a **completed ENTRY LABEL**. The **ENTRY LABEL** is included with this mailing, and should be duplicated as necessary. It is important to include the entrant's name, home address, home telephone number, school, grade, and parent's/guardian's name and daytime telephone number on the ENTRY LABEL and attach it to the **back** of his/her poster. Please do not place labels on the front of the posters; contestants should be anonymous to the judges.

AWARDS

Winners of the State Fair Housing Contest receive framed certificates and other awards at a special ceremony held at the State Capitol, usually the last Friday in June.

LOCAL CONTESTS

Each sponsoring agency is encouraged to make award presentations (e.g., ribbons, gift certificates) following the local judging. Media attention to the Fair Housing Contest promotes the concept of Fair Housing throughout the community. Winning posters (**a maximum of 3 from each grade level**) may be sent to Madison to compete in the State Fair Housing Contest.

Each sponsoring agency should select a panel of judges for the local judging. Suggested backgrounds may be, but are not limited to, education, art, and/or fair housing.

WINNING ENTRIES

Entries in the State Contest become the property of the Wisconsin Fair Housing Network. Return of the posters is not guaranteed. The posters may be included in displays or publications to promote fair housing throughout the year.

The winning entries from each grade level must be submitted by **April 16, 2012**, to:

Division of Housing
Wisconsin Department of Administration
Attention: Betty Kalscheur
101 East Wilson Street, 5th floor (53703)
P.O. Box 7970
Madison, WI 53707-7970



ESSAY CONTEST SUBMISSION INFORMATION

THEME

The sponsoring organization should provide information to participants about the meaning of fair housing. Participants should be made aware that the theme was designed to reflect equal opportunity in housing choice and that the **essays will be judged based on the theme**. The essay should convey imagery/wording reflecting the theme. The theme is:

“FAIR HOUSING: A CLEAR PATH FOR ALL”

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

The Essay Contest is open to Wisconsin residents in Grades 4-12. Entries to the state contest will be grouped 4-5, 6-8, and 9-12 for the State judging.

SPECIFICATIONS

Essays may be in the form of a story, poem or narrative. Essays may be no more than two (2) pages (excluding title page - if any), and may be typed or handwritten.

LABELING

Each entry to the State essay contest must include a completed ENTRY LABEL. The **ENTRY LABEL** is included with this mailing, and should be duplicated as necessary. It is important to include the entrant's name, home address, home telephone number, school, grade, and parent's/guardian's name and daytime telephone number on the ENTRY LABEL and attach it to the back of his/her essay. Please do not place labels on the front of the essays; contestants should be anonymous to the judges.

AWARDS

Winners of the State Fair Housing Contest receive framed certificates and other awards at a special ceremony held at the State Capitol, usually the last Friday in June.

LOCAL CONTESTS

Each sponsoring agency is encouraged to make award presentations (e.g., ribbons, gift certificates) following the local judging. Media attention to the Fair Housing Contest promotes the concept of Fair Housing throughout the community. Winning essays may be sent to Madison to compete in the State Fair Housing Contest

Each sponsoring agency should select a panel of judges for the local judging. Suggested backgrounds may be, but are not limited to, education, journalism, language arts, library science, and/or fair housing.

WINNING ENTRIES

Entries in the State Contest become the property of the Wisconsin Fair Housing Network. Return of the essays is not guaranteed. The essays may be included in displays or publications to promote fair housing throughout the year.

The winning entries from each grade level must be submitted by **April 16, 2012**, to:

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FAIR HOUSING POSTER / ESSAY CONTEST

ENTRY LABEL

ENTRANT: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____
STATE, ZIP CODE: _____
TELEPHONE: _____
SCHOOL/GRADE: _____

SPONSOR: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____
STATE, ZIP CODE: _____
TELEPHONE: _____
E-MAIL: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN: _____
DAYTIME TELEPHONE: _____
E-MAIL: _____

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