

For Immediate Release

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“Mr. Yuk Keeps Me Safe!” Around Washington State
Poison Prevention Week Poster Contest

Calling all 3rd, 4th and 5th graders! Mr. Yuk needs your help! He is trying to keep homes safe from poisons. You can help him by drawing a “Mr. Yuk Keeps Me Safe!” poster.

The Washington Poison Center is organizing its second state-wide Poison Prevention Week Poster Contest starting mid-September running through October. This contest is open to all 3-5th graders who participate in a local poster contest through their school, youth group or other community programs. Individual entries will also be accepted this year.

“Poster contests are a great way to increase awareness of poison safety and the Poison Center through a creative and engaging activity with our youth,” said Kerri Booth, Education Coordinator of the Washington Poison Center. “We hope every home will be a Mr. Yuk home.”

This year’s theme is “Mr. Yuk Keeps Me Safe!” reminding children that if they see Mr. Yuk they should stay away and ask an adult for help, keeping them safe from the poison. Mr. Yuk is also used to remind adults that poisonous products, such as personal care items, household cleaners, medications and garden or yard products should be kept out of reach and view of children and pets. Mr. Yuk stickers have the national toll-free poison hotline number: **1-800-222-1222** just in case an accident does happen.

The winning poster will be used as the official Washington State poster for Poison Prevention Week in March 2008 and will be displayed on billboards and posters throughout the state. The winning poster and four runner ups will be announced mid-November. More information on the poster contest, including contest rules and a complete list of prizes can be found at www.wapc.org.

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About National Poison Prevention Week

Congress established National Poison Prevention Week more than forty years ago to raise awareness of unintentional poisonings. Governor Christine Gregoire recently signed a proclamation proclaiming March 19-25, 2006, as Poison Prevention Week in Washington State. Over one million poisonings involving small children are reported to poison centers each year. Many of these poisonings could have been prevented. Poison centers organize events during this special week to educate parents and others about which household products are poisonous, how to prevent poisonings from occurring and what to do if a poisoning occurs.

About the Washington Poison Center

The Washington Poison Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, prevents harm from poisonings by being the primary resource for poison treatment, education and prevention. Reachable 24/7, the national poison hotline: **1-800-222-1222** will connect you to specially-trained nurses, pharmacists and poison specialists. Poison help is always free and confidential. Services are available for people with hearing problems and for non-English speakers.

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*State-level poster contest
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