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News Release

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS LAUNCHES 5th ANNUAL NATIONAL ART CONTEST FOR CHILDREN

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHICAGO, March 4, 2009 - The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) invites children to enter a national art contest with a chance to win a trip to Washington, DC, this year.

The contest is open to boys and girls in three groups, grades 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12, and the theme is "*Protecting Children from Tobacco Smoke.*"

Group winners and their parents/guardians will be invited to a presentation ceremony before several thousand pediatricians at the 2009 AAP National Conference & Exhibition in Washington, DC, on Saturday, October 17. Each first-place winner will receive \$500 and up to \$1,000 for travel-related expenses. The three second-place winners will each receive \$250. The six winners' schools will be awarded matching cash amounts. Winners will have their artwork featured on the AAP Web site and in promotional materials.

"There are still far too many young people who smoke and many pick up this deadly habit while they are at school," warns AAP President David Tayloe, Jr, MD, FAAP. "This is an opportunity for children to exercise their creative side to alert other children – and parents - to the dangers of tobacco and second-hand smoke."

This year's contest is an initiative of the AAP's Julius B. Richmond Center, supported by the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute, and dedicated to the elimination of children's exposure to tobacco and secondhand smoke.

To enter, children should submit an original piece of artwork to: National Art Contest, American Academy of Pediatrics, 141, Northwest Point Boulevard, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007.

Rules, official entry forms and consent forms must accompany all entries and are available online at <http://www.aap.org> . Entries must be postmarked by July 31, 2009. Winning entries will be selected by a panel of judges including pediatricians, and announced in the summer.

The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 60,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults. ([aap.org](http://www.aap.org))

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