

National Work Zone Safety Art Competition

The Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) is announcing a clarion call to all 7th and 8th grade middle school students to enter in the 2008 Work Zone Safety Create-A-Sign Competition.

MDOT is encouraging students to think about what their message would be if they were assigned to create a highway sign to inform the public of the importance of slowing down in highway work zones where construction crews are working on state highways. Over the years, there have been several fatalities and deaths across the United States due to motorists' failure to obey the posted speed limit in work zones. MDOT would like for students to create a message that they would like to express to the traveling public to get their attention in slowing down when traveling through construction work zones.

National Work Zone Safety Awareness is April 7-11, 2008. The Mississippi Department of Transportation along with other DOTs, Federal Highway Administration, and other partners participate annually in the event. National Work Zone Awareness Week (NWZAW) was created in December 1999, when countless partners joined together to host a campaign to reduce the number of accidents and injuries in roadway work zones.

The U.S. roadway system's positive trends have leveled off at a 2005 fatality rate of approximately 1.46 deaths per 100 million miles of travel (down from 5.50 fatalities in 1966). However, that's still not good enough. In 2005, nearly 2.7 million people were injured and 43,443 people died on our nation's roads.

MDOT's number one goal is to provide public awareness and educate the public on ways to improve motorists, worker and pedestrian safety in roadway work zones. The National Work Zone Safety Create-A-Sign Competition will allow students to be involved in the creation of the work zone safety message as well as educate the students about the importance of work zone safety.

MDOT will select first place and second place winners that has the best highway work zone safety sign for National Work Zone Safety. First place winners will be given a plaque/trophy and work zone safety t-shirts for their entire class, and second place winners will receive a certificate and t-shirts for their entire class.

Interested parties who would like to participate in the Work Zone Safety Create-A-Sign Competition should log onto www.goMDOT.com and complete the form and read the guidelines for submitting entries. If you have any questions pertaining to the contest, please contact Carrie Adams, MDOT Outreach Division at 601-359-7656.

All entries must be received by Monday, March 31, 2008. Please mail all entries to: Mississippi Department of Transportation Outreach Division, P. O. Box 1850, Jackson, MS 39213. MDOT will announce the winners at the National Work Zone Safety Press Conference in April.

Rules for the Competition

All drawings should be submitted in black and white and the verbiage for the sign should be no more than six (6) words and the drawing should be designed in a diamond shaped figure. This competition is for 7th and 8th grade middle school students.

National Work Zone Safety Create-A-Sign Competition Form

Student Name: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____

School Address: _____

School Telephone Number: _____

The Mississippi Transportation Commission and MDOT Outreach Division intend and agree that the creative works, products, and results of the competition for Work Zone Safety are considered a work made for hire under U.S. Copyright laws, and acknowledge and agree that the Commission owns all right, title, and interest in and to all such creative products, works, and results including, without limitation, the copyright thereto.

The Commission therefore has the right to use in any manner whatsoever such creative works.

Signature of Student