

2010 AAP Art Contest Targets Tobacco on an International Level

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Julius B. Richmond Center invites children from all countries to participate in the 2010 international art contest addressing the theme “*Protecting the World’s Children from Tobacco and Secondhand Smoke.*” Children have a right to live in a world free from tobacco. But children are particularly powerless to protect themselves from the dangers of secondhand smoke. Because their bodies are developing, infants and young children are especially vulnerable to the poisons in secondhand smoke. Getting youth involved in speaking out for a tobacco-free world is vital to creating a generation of nonsmokers and a tobacco free future.

The AAP and the International Pediatric Association (IPA) launched a Child Health and Tobacco Control initiative in 2008. The goals of the initiative include addressing children’s issues in tobacco control in all countries, bringing pediatric voices to tobacco control policy discussions, and engaging pediatric associations in helping their members become clinical and policy advocates. In the coming year, the AAP/IPA hope to develop additional initiatives to help raise awareness of tobacco as a pediatric disease.

The AAP 2010 Children’s Art contest is another opportunity to plant the seed of awareness about the importance of tobacco control in youth, and about protecting children around the globe from exposure to secondhand smoke around the world.

The 2010 contest is open to participants ages 13-18 in countries other than the United States. There will be an award given to the winning international submission, as selected by a panel of judges. A matching prize will also be given to the winner’s school or homeschool.

The AAP Julius B. Richmond Center of Excellence is supported by a generous grant from the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute (FAMRI). The AAP Richmond Center is dedicated to eliminating children’s exposure to secondhand smoke and tobacco. FAMRI sponsors scientific and medical research for the early detection, prevention, treatment and cure of diseases and medical conditions caused from exposure to tobacco smoke. Please visit the [Richmond Center Web site](http://www.aap.org/richmondcenter/WebSite) <http://www.aap.org/richmondcenter/ArtContest.html> for more information.

To enter, children should submit original artwork to: Children’s Art Contest, American Academy of Pediatrics, 141 Northwest Point Boulevard, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007, USA. Contest rules, official entry forms and consent forms must accompany all entries and are available online at the [AAP Art Contest Web site](http://www.aap.org/richmondcenter/ArtContest.html). Entries must be postmarked by July 30, 2010.