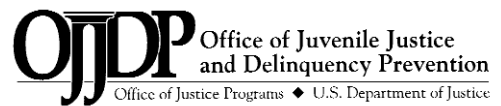




NATIONAL MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN'S AWARDS

2008
NOMINATION FORM AND
GUIDELINES



In Partnership with the Fraternal Order of Police and
the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MISSION	2
INTRODUCTION.....	2
GOALS.....	2
SUBMISSION RULES.....	2-4
ELIGIBILITY.....	2-3
GUIDELINES.....	3
RESTRICTIONS.....	3-4
JUDGING CRITERIA.....	4-5
WINNER RECOGNITION.....	5-6
TIMELINE.....	6
APPLICANT CHECKLIST.....	7
NOMINATION FORM (LAW-ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL).....	8
NOMINATION FORM (NON LAW-ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL).....	9

MISSION

The mission of the National Missing and Exploited Children's Awards is to 1) honor United States law-enforcement professionals who have performed above and beyond the call of duty in safely recovering a missing child or successfully resolving a complex child sexual exploitation investigation; 2) recognize the successful resolution of missing and exploited children cases; and 3) promote awareness of missing children and child sexual exploitation.

INTRODUCTION

The National Missing and Exploited Children's Award, first introduced on May 22, 1996, bears the utmost significance and extends far beyond the prestige of simply winning an award. The ceremony, hosted by the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), is held in partnership with the Fraternal Order of Police and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and launches nationwide recognition for National Missing Children's Day, May 25th.

Proclaimed by President Ronald Reagan in 1983, National Missing Children's Day serves as an annual reminder to make child protection a national priority by encouraging parents and guardians to maintain high-quality photographs of their children in case of an emergency, and by urging everyone to pay close attention to the posters and photographs of missing children. Since National Missing Children's Day was proclaimed, each administration has honored this annual reminder to the nation to renew efforts to reunite missing children with their families.

NCMEC has held the National Missing and Exploited Children's Awards ceremony on or near May 25th for more than 12 years and honored more than 145 outstanding law-enforcement officers.

GOALS

United States law-enforcement agencies of all sizes and jurisdictions may be considered for the National Missing and Exploited Children's Awards by submitting nominations for an officer or officers who have performed above and beyond the call of duty in recovering a missing child or resolving a child sexual exploitation case. All nominations submitted for consideration should focus on the achievement of the following goals:

Work deemed exceptional or beyond the call of duty

Performing well despite environmental challenges

Effective use of resources

Employing innovative investigative approaches

SUBMISSION RULES

ELIGIBILITY

The National Missing and Exploited Children's Awards are open to all United States law-enforcement agencies as well as non law-enforcement personnel who have provided substantial noteworthy assistance that directly aided in the recovery of a missing children or in the arrest of a suspect. For an individual to be

considered, a nominator must complete the nomination form and submit a detailed case summary that describes the nominee's role in the case; in particular, the specific actions taken by the nominee that led to the child's recovery or resolution of the investigation. The case summary should also highlight the nominee's achievement of all of the outlined goals identified on page 2.

A maximum of six awards will be presented. The number of awards presented each year is subject to change, based on the number of quality nominations submitted.

To be eligible, the nominee must:

- be a sworn United States law-enforcement officer;**
- have no departmental or other charges currently pending;**
- have performed an investigative activity deemed exceptional or beyond the call of duty; and**
- have safely recovered a missing child or arrested a suspect(s) within 2007.**

GUIDELINES

For purposes of the Awards, "child sexual exploitation" refers to cases involving perpetrators who are not related to the victim, and "recovery" refers to missing children who were safely recovered (i.e., recovered alive).

Agencies should not nominate more than one officer from one agency for a single case; nor should they nominate one officer's work on more than one case. Although many law-enforcement officers have extensive experience investigating these cases, NCMEC's awards are based on the nominee's investigation of a single case. If the case involved multiple officers from one agency, NCMEC expects that only one person will accept the award on behalf of the agency.

If other agencies were involved in the investigation and should be included, it is the responsibility of the nominator to coordinate with those agencies and submit one nomination that includes nominees from each agency.

RESTRICTIONS

SUPERVISOR APPROVAL: The nominee's supervisor must approve the nomination to ensure the accuracy of the case summary and appropriateness of the officer(s) nominated. The nominee's supervisor must read the case summary and endorse the nomination by providing his/her signature in the designated location. Nominations that do not include signatures of the nominees' supervisors will not be considered.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE: To submit a nomination, nominators must complete both: 1) a nomination form and 2) a detailed case summary. This information may be sent to multiple review panels for voting, so all materials must be easily photocopied.

STEP 1 - Complete the nomination form (see pages 8 and 9).

STEP 2 - Complete a detailed case summary that describes the nominee's role in the case as well as the nominee's specific individual actions that led to the safe recovery of the child or successful resolution of the investigation. The case summary must be saved onto a 3.5" disk or compact disk (Microsoft® Word preferred) and may not exceed two (2) pages.

STEP 3 - Attach the nomination form to the front of the case summary and mail both to NCMEC. The mailing address appears at the bottom of the Applicant Checklist on page 7.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION (OPTIONAL): Nominators are encouraged to submit supplemental information about the nominee's case, such as related newspaper articles (please submit no more than two), magazine/trade articles, television news footage, crime scene photographs, mug shots, etc. If submitting newspaper articles, please do so in a format that is easy to read and photocopy.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The five following categories define the judging criteria and point-scoring values on a scale of 100. The nominations with the highest scores will be selected. These criteria span the entire range from initial discovery of the crime, to investigation, to case resolution. Successful resolutions are vital, as is the performance, persistence, resourcefulness and innovation demonstrated by the nominees. All nominations will undergo extensive review by special award panels comprised of law-enforcement and non law-enforcement professionals. The judging criteria and key questions to consider when writing the case summary and submitting a nomination are:

EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE: 45 POINTS

Under this criterion, nominees are judged solely on exemplary action and performance exhibited during the investigation of a single case. Standard law enforcement duties are assumed. This category extends beyond routine tasks and obligations to performance deemed above and beyond the call of duty.

KEY QUESTIONS: Did the nominee perform above and beyond the call of duty? If so, what exactly did he/she do? Did he/she work around the clock or go into work on his/her day off? Did the nominee painstakingly review a staggering volume of evidence (i.e. computers, DVDs, photographs, etc.); and follow up on hundreds or thousands of case leads?

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE: 20 POINTS

Under this criterion, nominees are judged on their commitment to the investigation and persistence in resolving the case despite operating in an unusually challenging environment.

KEY QUESTIONS: Did the nominee operate in a challenging environment (i.e., did the case involve international barriers, legal constraints, evasive suspects, or lack of sufficient evidence)? Did the nominee solve a difficult or complicated case in an unusually short period of time?

RESOURCEFULNESS: 15 POINTS

This criterion describes how effectively and efficiently nominees used resources at their disposal to help recover a missing child or resolve a child sexual exploitation investigation.

KEY QUESTIONS: Did the nominee request assistance from other law-enforcement agencies or organizations? Did the nominee contact NCMEC and work with NCMEC staff? Did the nominee make use of available resources (i.e. law enforcement manpower, missing children posters, media outreach, etc.)?

INVESTIGATIVE INNOVATION: 10 POINTS

Under this criterion, nominees are judged on their innovation and creativity in helping to recover a missing child or solve a child sexual exploitation case. Investigative innovation entails employing creative thinking and new or unusual actions to resolve a case.

KEY QUESTIONS: Did the nominee think 'outside the box'? Did the nominee improve upon existing laws regarding missing children or child sexual exploitation following the investigation? Did the nominee create a new computer system or implement a new investigative approach? How does this system or approach differ from existing tools or procedures?

SUBMISSION: 10 POINTS

Under this criterion, nominees are judged on the thoroughness of the nominator's submission. All nominations and case summaries should be clear, concise, accurate, complete, and follow a logical sequence - from problem identification and case investigation to resolution and recovery.

KEY QUESTIONS: Is the nomination form filled out completely? Is the case summary understandable and factual? Does the nomination follow a logical sequence of events? Was the investigation resolved (i.e., were suspect(s) arrested or child(ren) recovered) within the year 2007? Were all of the eligibility requirements met?

WINNER RECOGNITION

Once the judges have reviewed all nominations recipients of Honorable Mention, nominees who entered into NCMEC's final round of voting, as well as Achievement nominees, who were nominated but ultimately not selected, will be mailed letters and certificates for their extraordinary work.

Judges will ultimately choose up to six winning cases. Winners will be recognized at NCMEC's 2008 Congressional Breakfast and Thirteenth Annual National Missing and Exploited Children's Awards in May of 2008.

Each winner will receive:

An invitation to the ceremony noted above where the nominee will receive an award.

Two seats at the National Missing and Exploited Children's Awards.

Paid airfare to and from Washington, DC.

Hotel accommodations for three nights in May.

Transportation to and from the airport as well as award ceremony.

2007 NATIONAL MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN'S AWARD WINNERS

Detective Sergeant David Wurtz of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office in Pontiac, Michigan, and Deputy Jody D. Nidiffer of the U.S. Marshals Service in Detroit, Michigan, were recognized for their work in the recovery of Genevieve Nielsen, who was abducted by her non-custodial father and reunited with her mother 30 years later.

Sheriff Gary F. Toelke of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office in Union, Missouri, and Special Agent Patrick D. Cunningham of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in St. Louis, Missouri, were honored for the swift recovery of Abigale Woods, a newborn who was violently abducted from her home by 36-year-old Shannon Torrez.

Detective C. Ricky Roll of the Metropolitan Police Department in Nashville, Tennessee; Supervisory Special Agent Luis A. Vega-Montalvo of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, DC; and Lieutenant William M. Barry of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office in Goffstown, New Hampshire, were honored for the safe recovery of 8-year-old Mariana Cisneros and 15-month-old Edgardo Espinosa, who were abducted and taken to Mexico by two fugitives responsible for the murder of their 4-year-old brother.

Detective Bryan Sirkel of the County Sheriff's Department in Los Angeles, California, was honored for his investigative skills and resourcefulness that led to the arrest of a dangerous child predator for possession and production of child pornography, a brutal kidnapping, and the sexual assaults of at least four young children.

Special Agent Sean Lichner of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Northern Kentucky; Detective Tracy Watson of the Boone County Sheriff's Department in Burlington, Kentucky; and Senior Special Agent Monica Lamas of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Washington, DC, were honored for their extraordinary efforts in the arrest of a sexual predator for child molestation and the production and distribution of child pornography.

Senior Special Agent Jose Nieves of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Chicago, Illinois, and Detective Randy Wickins of the Edmonton Police Service in Alberta, Canada, were honored for their remarkable collaboration and performance in carrying out "Project Wickerman." This multifaceted investigation led to the dismantling of a worldwide child exploitation peer-to-peer organization and the rescue of 22 child victims, one of them less than 18-months-old.

Sheriff David Gutierrez and Captain Antonio Menchaca of the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office in Lubbock, Texas, were honored with the 2007 Law Enforcement Excellence Award for their perseverance, resourcefulness and diligence in recovering the remains of Joanna Rogers, the 16-year-old victim of a brutal attack. Officers recovered her body in a Texas landfill.

TIMELINE

January 11, 2008

Deadline for nominations. Note - Confirmation of receipt will be e-mailed to nominator.

Late February 2008

Honorable Mention and Achievement letters and certificates mailed. Winners notified.

May 2008

Awards presented at the 2008 National Missing and Exploited Children's Awards on Capitol Hill.

2008 APPLICANT CHECKLIST

NOMINATION FORM REVIEW

Nominee meets nomination criteria:

- Nominee is a sworn United States law-enforcement officer
- Nominee has no departmental or other charges currently pending
- Nominee performed an investigative activity deemed exceptional or beyond the call of duty
- Nominee safely recovered a missing child or solved a child sexual exploitation case **within 2007**

Nomination is signed by the nominee's supervisor

CASE SUMMARY

Case summary is no more than two (2) pages

Case summary includes detailed information about the nominee's role in the case

ATTACHMENTS

Attached newspaper articles - no more than two (2)

Attached video news footage (DVD or VHS) - unlimited amount

Attached case summary in hard copy and soft copy on 3.5" disk or compact disk - Microsoft® Word preferred

SUBMISSION

Materials to arrive no later than **January 11, 2008**

Materials mailed to

**Department of Communications
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
Charles B. Wang International Children's Building
699 Prince Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-3175**

2008 NOMINATION FORM FOR LAW-ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL

NOMINATOR INFORMATION

Name/Title:

Department:

Work Address:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Relation to Nominee:

Other law-enforcement agencies involved? If so, please copy and submit this page for each nominee.

NOMINEE INFORMATION

Name/Title:

Department:

Work Address:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Work Telephone:

Cell Phone:

E-mail:

NOMINEE'S SUPERVISOR'S INFORMATION

Name/Title:

Department:

Work Address:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Work Telephone:

Cell Phone:

E-mail:

Supervisor's Signature:

Date:

CASE INFORMATION

Name(s) of Child(ren):

Name(s) of Child(ren)'s Custodial Parent or Guardian:

Current Address of Custodial Parent or Guardian:

Home Telephone:

Work Telephone:

Cell Phone:

E-mail of Custodial Parent or Guardian:

For NCMEC use only:

Control #:

Date received/confirmed

Case type:

**2008 NOMINATION FORM FOR NON LAW-ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL
(OPTIONAL)**

If non law-enforcement personnel provided substantial assistance to law enforcement in this case and should be considered for recognition at the awards, please provide his/her information below.

NON LAW-ENFORCEMENT NOMINEE INFORMATION		
Name/Title:		
Department:		
Work Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Work Telephone:	Cell Phone:	E-mail:
NOMINEE'S SUPERVISOR'S INFORMATION		
Name/Title:		
Department:		
Work Address:		
City:	State:	ZIP Code:
Work Telephone:	Cell Phone:	E-mail:
SIGNATURE OF NOMINEE'S SUPERVISOR		
Supervisor's Signature:		Date:

For NCMEC use only:
Control #:
Date received/confirmed:
Case type: