



ULSTER COUNTY NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
OFFICE OF ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATURE
244 FAIR STREET
KINGSTON, NEW YORK, 12401

PHONE: 845.340-3900
FAX: 845.340.3651
www.co.ulster.ny.us
www.ulstercountyny.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County-wide Water Safety

With temperatures warming up, Ulster County's pools, ponds and lakes will soon be packed with children looking to have some fun.

It's a great time to relax – except when it comes to water safety.

About 350 young people drown in pools each year nationwide, with over half of the accidents occurring in June, July and August, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. And statistics show that drowning remains the leading cause of accidental death for all children between the ages of one and four.

To help raise awareness of this problem, Ulster County youths are invited to enter a County-wide water safety poster contest with winners earning savings bonds donated by Ulster Savings Bank.

The water safety poster campaign is open to Ulster County residents in four age categories: children up to second grade; students from third to fifth grades; students from sixth to eighth grades and students from grade nine and up.

Entries will be accepted at any Ulster Savings Bank branch through July 31. Contestants must enter their name, address, phone number, age and grade.

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Contestants are required to draw pictures on a poster that shows the dangers of water in backyard pools, public parks, river banks, ocean beaches, when swimming at the pool, river, or beach, when the tide changes and the importance of knowing how to swim. Boat safety can also be shown on the poster.

Posters are to be original work by the artist. The largest size of the poster is three feet by two feet.

Contest winners will be announced in early August.

“I hope everyone uses their imagination to teach others about water safety,” said Gloria Lipton, Coordinator of We Care About Kids in Ulster County, one of the contest sponsors.

“This contest attracted a lot of great artwork last year,” said David B. Donaldson, Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature. “Plus, it certainly helps raise awareness of water safety, which is something that we all know is extremely important. We want to make sure this is a safe summer for all the kids in Ulster County.”

Other contest sponsors are: Ulster Savings Bank, the YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County, the Ulster County Legislature, Ulster County Tourism, the Kingston Parks and Recreation Department, Ulster County Buildings and Grounds and the U.S. Coast Guard.

All the School Districts in the County have been asked to participate and as the summer opens information will go to all the Town Recreation Departments and the City and Village Recreation programs.

For further information, call Ulster County Buildings and Grounds at 340-3138.