

# KidVid Contest

Co-sponsored by  
the Foreign Service  
Youth Foundation

[FSIOBCInfoCenter@state.gov](mailto:FSIOBCInfoCenter@state.gov)

## Contest Rules

The Foreign Service Institute (FSI), in collaboration with the Foreign Service Youth Foundation (FSYF), announces the 26th annual worldwide KidVid Contest, open to children from the ages of 10 through 18. A parent or the legal guardian of a contestant submits an original video that depicts life for Foreign Service youth at their post. Foreign Service children and their parents rely on the Overseas Briefing Center (OBC) and its online resources to research assignments and life at post. One of OBC's most popular resources is its collection of post videos, which depict the housing, schooling, recreational facilities, community, and city life. The KidVid collection communicates and highlights these same aspects, illustrating experiences through the eyes of youth.

This year, OBC focuses the KidVid Contest on "Youth and Family Time Together" overseas. With the worldwide pandemic still affecting life at post, OBC realizes that kids are spending more time with their immediate family members. Video content should continue to include the topics below and in addition, incorporate family experiences. Participation will allow other kids and their families better understand adjustment and resilience in the overseas context.

### LIVE FOOTAGE

Provide live footage when possible. Examples should include:

#### An Introduction

- a) Introduce yourself (use only first name), and tell us your age, your family's current overseas assignment, and how long you have currently been at post.
- b) Who are the members of your immediate family? Are you currently doing school virtually or in person?
- c) How limited are you with recreational activities outside your home or neighborhood?

#### City

- a) Offer viewers a look at some major sights.
- b) If possible, provide a view of the city from a high point.
- c) Film local neighborhoods and shopping areas that you use.
- d) Show an example of the typical landscape and/or different animals (if applicable).
- e) How are you and your family visiting these locations? If you cannot visit the sites, how are you learning about them?

#### Housing

- a) Film some exterior and interior housing views – providing at least a couple of examples from different embassy neighborhoods, especially if housing differs considerably in various locations. Participants are cautioned to NOT reveal their exact location (neighborhood, address and street) when filming post housing. In addition, participants should not film specific security features of residences, or embassies and consulates without consulting with the Regional Security Office (RSO) at post.
- a) Provide a view of a typical bedroom for different age groups.
- b) Video a backyard or play areas for kids.

- c) Where do you and your family spend most of the time at home? How do you use the space?

#### School

- a) Are you attending school in-person or virtually from home? Show your school set-up, either at the school facility or at home. Describe your current school experience.
- b) Offer a view of school buildings, playgrounds, and sports fields.
- c) Film classrooms, the library, a computer room, chemistry lab or other rooms of interest.
- d) Provide short clips of school activities in progress (if possible), including students and teachers.
- e) Film sports teams and facilities if possible. If not attending school in person, how are you exercising or participating in sports?

#### Shopping

- a) Where does your family usually buy groceries? Are most of your groceries now ordered online and delivered instead of purchased in person? Are there good places to shop for clothes?
- b) Show your favorite shopping areas where you go with your family or can go by yourself.
- c) Are you ordering more items online now?

#### Community Life

- a) What activities do you do with your family? Are there favorite board games you play? Do you have family movie nights?
- b) What kind of recreational activities do you have at your post? Include examples such as pool, American Club, beaches, horseback riding, local activities, etc. What are the things you miss the most right now?
- c) How do you celebrate American or local holidays at post?
- d) What are the biggest tourist attractions at your post?
- e) What is the internet service like?
- f) What are your ways to connect online with friends in the U.S. or at other overseas posts?
- g) What are the favorite restaurants in the city? Is restaurant dining currently limited to curbside pick-up or outdoor options? Do you have fast food restaurants like those that are in the United States?

### ELIGIBILITY, PROCEDURES, AND VERIFICATION

#### Eligibility

Family members (ages 10 through 18) of U.S. government direct-hire employees who are assigned to a U.S. Mission overseas may participate. Previous winners are welcome to enter again. Boarding school students spending the holidays with parents at post are also allowed to participate. All contestants must have obtained written consent from one of their parents or a legal guardian in order to enter or participate in the KidVid Contest; use the Submission Form.

#### Contest Procedures

**KidVid Submission Form:** The form includes a statement that the contestant(s) and parent/legal guardian acknowledge, have read, and agree to the contest rules and uses for the video submissions. Please use this link (<https://bit.ly/kidvid2021>) to complete the KidVid Submission Form.

**Release Form:** All persons appearing in a video, other than the videographer, must be listed on a completed release form. We ask that each family complete one release form for each video submission. We also ask that anyone else appearing in a video submit a release form as well. Please use this link (<http://bit.ly/kidvidrelease>) to complete the Release Form.

**Submission:** For submission instructions, please contact the Overseas Briefing Center at [FSIOBCInfoCenter@state.gov](mailto:FSIOBCInfoCenter@state.gov). Videos must be submitted by the contestant's parent or legal guardian.

## Verification

OBC reserves the right at any time to verify the validity of entries and of contestants and to disqualify any contestant or entry deemed not in compliance with the KidVid Contest Rules.

## CONTEST DEADLINE

Submissions must be received by the OBC by 11:59 EST on May 1, 2021. The OBC is expecting to announce the contest winners at by end of May.

## JUDGING

Judging is based on the visual presentation as well as the narration describing the footage and life at post. As much as possible, use live footage. Provide narration continuously throughout the entire video. Audio clarity, volume consistency during coverage of content, and a steady hand with the video recorder are also important. The contest jury will be comprised of U.S. Department of State employees who do not have any children entering the KidVid Contest. The jury will review the videos and decide first, second, and third place winners.

## MUSIC, GRAPHICS, AND SPECIAL EFFECTS

Kids may but are in no way required to incorporate music, graphics, and special effects in their videos. OBC is not looking for professional quality productions; good home-video quality is perfectly acceptable. Technical quality is not as important as content. A good product is one that gives a clear portrayal of a youth's life at post. There is also no need to include captions (i.e., subtitles) in a submission. **Please note:** As video submissions must be original works, third-party copyright-protected music and images may not be contained within your final product.

## LENGTH OF VIDEO

The ideal video length is between 15 and 20 minutes.

## OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

We ask that adults provide minimal assistance in the video production. The contest allows for multiple entries from different students at a post. Group submissions are acceptable. Prize money will be divided among families accordingly.

The OBC will add all submissions into its video collection for programming use by the Department. Winning entries will be posted on internal OBC websites.

Contestants and the parents/legal guardian release the U.S. government and the Foreign Service Youth Foundation from any and all claims arising from or relating to the KidVid Contest, whether directly or indirectly.

## **COLLABORATION WITH THE FOREIGN SERVICE YOUTH FOUNDATION**

The FSYF will award cash prizes to the parents/legal guardian of the top winners. The 2020 recorded FSYF webinar **So You Want to Make a KidVid** provides tips on making a video. It also includes comments from previous winners. FSYF provides cash prizes. The OBC, a division of FSI's Transition Center, administers the contest. FSYF also sponsors other contests for Foreign Service youth, with information available at <http://www.fsyf.org>.

## **QUESTIONS**

Questions regarding the contest rules or guidelines can be directed to the OBC by email, at [FSIOBCInfoCenter@state.gov](mailto:FSIOBCInfoCenter@state.gov).