



Transition Center Overseas Briefing Center



2024 Contest Rules

CONTEST DESCRIPTION AND CONTEXT

The Foreign Service Institute (FSI), in collaboration with the Foreign Service Youth Foundation (FSYF), announces the 29th annual KidVid Contest, open to children at U.S. missions worldwide between the ages of 10 and 18 who are on the orders of a direct-hire employee under Chief of Mission authority. We seek original videos which depict life for youth at their post. The Overseas Briefing Center (OBC), a division of FSI's Transition Center, administers the contest. FSYF provides cash prizes.

Foreign affairs families rely on the OBC and its online resources to research life at post. OBC's post videos depict the housing, schooling, recreational facilities, community, and city life. The KidVid collection communicates and highlights these same aspects but illustrates the experiences through the eyes of foreign affairs youth.

CONTENT AND TECHNICAL GUIDELINES

Posts are welcome to pass contest rules directly to potential participants. Content should include the topics below. Please be sure to follow all relevant health and safety protocols and Regional Security Office (RSO) guidelines when filming.

FOOTAGE

Examples include:

An Introduction

- a) Introduce yourself (use first name only, no surnames should be mentioned), and tell us your age, your family's current overseas post and how long you have been living there.
- b) Describe your family, including those living with you and any pet(s).

City

- a) Offer viewers a look at some major sights.
- b) If possible, provide a view of the city from a high point.
- c) Provide video of the local neighborhoods.
- d) Show your favorite places to go in the city.
- e) Show an example of the typical landscape and/or different animals you see in your country (if applicable).
- f) Does your family visit interesting locations? If you cannot visit the sites, how are you learning about them?

Housing

- a) Include video of housing, providing at least a couple of examples from different embassy neighborhoods, especially if housing differs considerably in various locations. Note: Do NOT reveal exact locations (neighborhood, address, and street signs). Please include interior views. Participants should not film specific security features of residences, or embassies and consulates without consulting with the Regional Security Office (RSO) at post.
- b) Provide a view of a typical bedroom for different age groups.
- c) Video a backyard or play areas.
- d) Where do you and your family spend most of the time at home? How do you use the space?

School

- a) Show your school facility. Ask school administrators for permission to do so. Describe your current school experience. What do you like about your school?
- b) Offer a view of school buildings, playgrounds, sports fields, classrooms, the library, a computer room, chemistry lab or other rooms of interest. Provide short clips of school activities in progress if possible, including students and teachers.
- c) If you are homeschooled, what does your day include and how are you participating in extra-curricular activities?

Shopping

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

Community Life

- a) What activities do you do with your family? Are there favorite board games you play? Do you have family movie/game/video game nights?
- b) What does your family do for fun? What kind of recreational activities are available at your post? Include video examples such as a swimming pool, American Club, beaches, horseback riding, local activities, etc.
- c) How do you celebrate U.S. 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 United States or at other overseas posts?
- g) What are the favorite restaurants in the city? Do you have fast food restaurants like those that are in the United States? Does your family prefer to cook at home and if so, what's your favorite meal?

ELIGIBILITY, CONTEST PROCEDURES, AND VERIFICATION

- a) **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.
- b) **Contest Procedures:** Contest rules, submission information, and form links are available on:
 - <http://tc.fsi.state.sbu/6861> (OpenNet)
 - <https://fsipostinfotogo-usdos.msapproxy.net/6861> (GO Browser)
 - <https://www.fsyf.org/KidVid> (FSYF website).
- c) **All contestants must have obtained written consent** from one of their parents or a legal guardian to enter the KidVid Contest. Videos must be submitted, using the contest [submission form](#), by a parent or legal guardian, not by the participant.
- d) **Verification:** OBC reserves the right at any time to verify the validity of entries and participants and to disqualify any participant or entry deemed not in compliance with the KidVid Contest rules.

CONTEST DEADLINE

Submissions must be received by the OBC by 11:59 p.m. EST on April 15, 2024. The OBC plans to announce the contest winners by the end of May 2024.

ADVERTISEMENT AT POST

- a) FSI requests that the Management Counselor/Officer or Community Liaison Office (CLO) Coordinator advertise the contest at the post. CLOs can find a newsletter-ready advertisement on the “OBC Resources for CLOs” webpage at:
 - <http://tc.fsi.state.sbu/6612> (OpenNet)
 - <https://fsipostinfotogo-usdos.msapproxy.net/6612> (Go Browser).
- b) For parents without access to Department of State internal websites, contest information, including a set of contest rules, are available on the FSYF site at: <https://www.fsyf.org/KidVid>.

JUDGING

Judging is based on the visual presentation and the narration describing the video content and life at post. Judges prefer to see video over photos. Provide narration continuously throughout the entire video, describing in your own words details about life at post. Audio clarity, volume consistency, and a steady hand when videotaping are also important.

Contest judges are U.S. Department of State employees who do not have any children entering the KidVid Contest. Judges 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 into 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 winners accordingly.

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

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

COLLABORATION WITH THE FOREIGN SERVICE YOUTH FOUNDATION

The FSYP awards cash prizes to the parents/legal guardian of the top winners. The OBC, a division of FSI's Transition Center, administers the contest. Visit FSYP's website for other contests for Foreign Service youth at: <https://www.fsyf.org/ContestsAwards>.

QUESTIONS

Questions regarding the contest rules or guidelines should be directed to the OBC at FSIOBCInfoCenter@state.gov.