

2020 KidVid Contest Rules



Overseas Briefing Center
Transition Center

1. The Foreign Service Institute (FSI), in collaboration with the Foreign Service Youth Foundation (FSYF), announces the 25th annual worldwide KidVid Contest, open to children between the ages of 10 - 18. Contestants submit an original video that depicts life for Foreign Service youth at their post. FSYF awards winners cash prizes and invites them to attend the annual FSYF Youth Award Ceremony on June 18 in the Burns Auditorium at the U.S. Department of State. The Overseas Briefing Center (OBC), a division of FSI's Transition Center, administers the contest.
2. Foreign Service children and their parents rely on the OBC and its online resources to research assignments and life at post. One of OBC's most popular resources is its collection of post audiovisuals, which depict the housing, schooling, recreational facilities, community, and city life. KidVids, which are an integral part of the overall collection, communicate and highlight these same aspects from the viewpoint of the younger members of the Foreign Affairs community. KidVids illustrate what life is like for youth at post.
3. **Content and technical guidelines** follow. Please pass contest rules directly to interested potential contestants.

What would be of most interest to children and teens whose parents have an upcoming assignment to your post? Examples should include:

City

- a) Major sights
- b) View of the city from a high point
- c) Local neighborhoods and shopping areas that you use
- d) Typical landscape, different animals (if applicable)

Housing

- a) Exterior and interior housing views - at least a couple of examples from different embassy neighborhoods, especially if housing differs considerably at various locations
- b) View of a typical bedroom for different age groups
- c) Backyard or play areas for kids

School

- a) View of school buildings, playgrounds, and sports fields
- b) Classrooms, library, computer room, chemistry lab or other rooms are of interest
- c) Short clips of school activities in progress (if possible), including students and teachers
- d) Special equipment in use
- e) Sports teams and facilities

Shopping

- a) Where does your family buy groceries every week? Are there good places to shop for clothes?
- b) Favorite shopping areas where you go with your family or can go to by yourself?

Community Life

- a) What kind of recreational activities do you have at your post? Include examples such as pool, American Club, beaches, horseback riding, local activities, etc.
- b) How do you celebrate American and local holidays at post?
- c) What are the favorite restaurants in the city? Do you have fast food restaurants like those in the United States?
- d) What are the biggest tourist attractions at your post?
- e) What is the internet service like?
- f) How do you communicate with friends in the U.S. or at other overseas posts?

4. Contest Rules and Eligibility for Video Production

- a) **Eligibility:** Family members (ages 10-18) of U.S. government direct-hire and contract employees who are assigned to a U.S. Mission. 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:** A camera-ready advertisement and a set of contest rules are available on the OBC OpenNet site <http://tc.fsi.state.sbu/6861>, Post Info to Go - External <https://fsitraining.state.gov/tc/6861>, and the FSYP site <https://www.fsyf.org/KidVid>.
- c) The January 31, 2020 recorded **FSYP webinar** [So You Want to Make a KidKid!](#) provides tips on making one. It also includes comments from previous winners.
- d) Before recording footage, be aware of any local restrictions on using a video camera in public. Videotaped Americans need to be informed of the purpose of the video (see paragraph 6) and sign the release form.
- e) **Submit entries using an MP4 format** to [2020 KidVid Submission Site](#).
- f) **Entries must include the submission form** which includes a statement that the contestant(s) acknowledges, has read, agrees to the contest rules and uses for the video. The form also provides the OBC with the following information:

Name
Grade and Age
Post
Parent's Name and Agency
Pouch Address
Parent's Email Addresses
- g) **A Release Form**, located both on the OBC OpenNet at <http://tc.fsi.state.sbu/6861> and on the FSYP website, should also be used, if other members of the community are filmed.
- h) **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.

- i) Music, graphics, and special effects may be used but are not required. We are 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. Do not include copyright-protected music or images as part of the final product.
 - j) Ideal video length is between 15 and 20 minutes.
 - k) We ask that adults provide minimal assistance in the video production.
 - l) The contest allows for multiple entries from different students at a post.
 - m) Group submissions are acceptable. Prize money will be divided accordingly.
5. The Foreign Service Youth Foundation, through a generous donation from Meghan Pachas of MAP Property Solutions LLC, will award cash prizes to the top winners.
 6. All submissions become the property of the OBC, which includes them in its audiovisual collection in the center for use by employees and their family members. Winning entries will also be posted on OpenNet, Post Info to Go-External and the "members only" portion of the FYSF internet site.
 7. **Contest deadline:** Submissions must be received in the OBC by **April 15, 2020**. The OBC announces the contest winners at the end of May.
 8. To maximize this opportunity for the young people of your community, CLOs are asked to publicize the contest in the post newsletter. Instructions for advertisements are in the official cable.
 9. Questions regarding the contest rules or guidelines can be directed to Maureen Johnston at the Overseas Briefing Center, email JohnstonM5@state.gov | 703-302-7277.
 10. For more information on other contests for Foreign Service youth, visit <http://www.fsyf.org>.