

## History of the Constitution Day Poster Contest

The GovDoc Kids Group conceived the contest as a promotional tool for the value of government information to K-12 students and teachers in addressing the new requirement since 2005 to integrate into public school curricula an educational program about Constitution Day. A federal mandate requires schools K-12 that receive federal funds to have a program on Constitution Day, September 17.

Inspired by Johnson County Library's popular bookmark contest, the group decided to conduct a Constitution Day poster contest. Brian Oertel, graphic artist at Johnson County Library, designed a tickler bookmark to distribute at the program. On April 12, 2007, Tatiana Pashkova, Mary Burtzloff, Arlene Wiler, and Martha Childers presented the program at the Kansas Libraries Tri-Conference in Topeka, Kansas, to more than 40 individuals attending.

The first Constitution Day Poster Contest was held in 2007, and it has been held annually since then.

### **Statistics by year:**

In 2007, there were 161 entries from 8 states and 1 country (two DoD schools in Japan) with 10 winners.

In 2008, there were 1,100 entries from 7 states and 0 countries with 14 winners.

In 2009, there were 2,395 entries from 37 states and 3 countries (Italy, Japan, and Korea) with 13 winners.

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