

2025 - 2026 Florida Missing Children's Day Multi-Use Award Nomination Form



DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026

Thank you for considering nominees for the 2025 - 2026 Florida Missing Children's Day Awards. General award winners will be selected by the Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse (MEPIC) Advisory Board. Special award winners are selected by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) Commissioner. The awards will be presented on Florida Missing Children's Day on Monday, September 14, 2026, in Tallahassee, Florida. Please email this completed form to FMCD@fdle.state.fl.us or mail it to FDLE, Attn. FMCD Coordinator, Post Office Box 1489, Tallahassee, FL 32302.

Multi-Use Award Information:

Completing this form means the award category is selected by individuals outside of your agency.

There are several awards that do not have specific nomination forms, such as the Commissioner's Award, the John and Revé Walsh Award, the Evelyn Williams Memorial Award, and the Maple's Everyday Hero Award. These awards have broader criteria and are assessed independently on a case by case basis, but may be eligible for a Florida Missing Children's Day award.

You may use this form to nominate citizens, criminal justice personnel, or other organization personnel for individual or group awards.

Nominator Information (Primary Award Contact)

The nominator will act as the main contact for award notification. Specific contact information for the nominees may be solicited at a later date if needed.

Full Name: _____

Rank/Title: _____

Agency/Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Are you nominating one nominee or a group that participated in the same activity?	One	Group
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Is there an agency case number associated with this nomination?	Yes	No
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If you answered yes above, please provide the agency case number.

MANDATORY AWARD CRITERIA

The below criteria is required for ALL Florida Missing Children’s Day Awards.

The activity warranting nomination must have occurred in the State of Florida during the time period between January 1, 2025 and April 30, 2026

AND

The activity must be determined to be exceptional, extraordinary, outstanding, or beyond the call of duty.

GENERAL AWARD CRITERIA

Selected by the Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse Advisory Board

Award	Criteria
Citizen of the Year Award	Activity resulted in the prevention of an abduction or the recovery of a child or endangered person from a situation of imminent danger. *Sworn law enforcement may not qualify for this award UNLESS the activity is grossly outside their normal job activities and occurred while off-duty. For example, sworn jail personnel that prevented a child abduction at a bus stop may qualify.
School Bus Operator of the Year Award	Activity resulted in the prevention of a child or student abduction or the recovery of a child or student from a situation of imminent danger while the nominee was on duty as a school bus operator/driver. *Must be employed as a school bus driver. Any other type of bus driver would be assessed for Citizen of the Year award.
Young Hero Award	While they were a minor , the nominee’s activity resulted in the prevention or escape from a situation of imminent danger typically related to a child abduction or recovery of a child (could be the prevention/escape of their own abduction).
Local Law Enforcement Officer of the Year <i>and</i> State/Federal Law Enforcement Officer of the Year	Activity resulted in the safe recovery or location of a missing endangered person OR resolution of a case involving serial child or endangered person homicide or child or endangered persons’ sexual exploitation OR made a significant contribution to issues regarding missing children and/or missing endangered persons through the development and/or implementation of an educational, awareness, or safety program. *Must be sworn law enforcement. Some agencies require law enforcement response to consist of two members. If more than one officer responded to the same case, there may be multiple winners.
Combatting Human Trafficking Award	Made outstanding contributions to the issue of human trafficking while positively affecting missing and endangered children, their families, and the safety of children OR demonstrate a profound contribution that established improvements in preventing child human trafficking victimization and/or safely recovering those who go missing and were victims of human trafficking. Due to information needed for this award, please complete the Combatting Human Trafficking Award nomination form.
Jimmy Ryce K9 Trailing Team of the Year	Activity resulted in the safe recovery of a missing minor child. *Award may be given to both sworn/non-sworn trailing teams. Other scent trailing types (decedent, electronic scent, etc.) and teams who recovered children deceased are assessed under a different award. Due to information needed for this award, please complete the Jimmy Ryce K9 Trailing Team of the Year nomination form.

GENERAL AWARD CRITERIA CONTINUED

Selected by the Missing Endangered Persons Information Clearinghouse Advisory Board

Award	Criteria
Law Enforcement Task Force/Team of the Year	<p>Activity has resulted in the safe recovery or location of a missing endangered person OR solved a case involving serial child or endangered person homicide or child or endangered persons' sexual exploitation OR made a significant contribution to issues regarding missing children and/or missing endangered persons through the development and/or implementation of an educational, awareness, or safety program.</p> <p>*At least one member of the nominated team MUST be sworn. Include all sworn/non-sworn members who substantially participated on the team.</p>
Maple's Everyday Hero	<p>Miscellaneous category for those whose activities are related to child abduction, missing persons, sexual offender and predator apprehension, or locating deceased remains.</p> <p>*Award may be given to sworn law enforcement, non-sworn criminal justice personnel, citizens, advocates, diving teams, cold case investigators, etc., and may also be given to individuals or teams.</p>

SPECIAL AWARD CRITERIA

Selected by FDLE's Commissioner. These awards do not have specific nomination forms.

Award	Criteria
Commissioner's Award	<p>Activity must be an exemplary model facilitating the safe return of missing children or proactively working toward the prevention of abduction, thus enhancing the safety of Florida's children.</p> <p>*Award may be given to sworn law enforcement, non-sworn criminal justice personnel, citizens, advocates, diving teams, cold case investigators, etc., and may also be given to individuals or teams that involve activity involving children specifically.</p>
John and Revé Walsh Award	<p>Work done must positively affect Florida's missing children and their families and/or positively impact the safety of Florida's children. Their work over the years must indicate a profound contribution that institutionalized improvements to prevent children from abduction and/or safely and successfully recover those who go missing.</p> <p>*Award may be given to sworn law enforcement, non-sworn criminal justice personnel, citizens, advocates, diving teams, cold case investigators, etc., and may also be given to individuals or teams that involve activity involving children specifically.</p>
Evelyn Williams Memorial Award	<p>Work is beneficial to the public and has demonstrated outstanding contributions to the incidents of missing endangered persons. The effort of this individual is usually unrecognized as they continue working quietly and consistently behind the scenes for the safety of Florida's children and endangered populations.</p> <p>*Award may be given to sworn law enforcement, non-sworn criminal justice personnel, citizens, advocates, diving teams, cold case investigators, etc., and may also be given to individuals or teams that involve missing endangered persons.</p>

Nominee Information

If submitting a group, attach multiple copies of this page with each nominee's information.

Disclaimer: Florida Missing Children's Day is live streamed by the Florida Channel, winners that are undercover or that do not wish to have their information released may be unable to participate in the ceremony itself. Their awards will be distributed based on their agency's/organization's preference. Participation in the ceremony authorizes the use of the winner's name and image for publication. FDLE reserves the right to remove a nominee or winner from the selection process if any adverse information is obtained before award issuance on September 14, 2026.

Full Name: _____

Rank/Title: _____

Agency/Organization: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Is the nominee a sworn officer?

Yes

No

Is there any reason the nominee's information cannot be released (e.g., undercover)?

Yes

No

Full Name: _____

Rank/Title: _____

Agency/Organization: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Is the nominee a sworn officer?

Yes

No

Is there any reason the nominee's information cannot be released (e.g., undercover)?

Yes

No

Nomination Summary

Please provide detailed information concerning the case investigation or activity. Describe the role of the nominee(s) and specify the actions and activities that led to your nomination for this award. Include any additional information, like press clippings, arrest reports or news footage for our consideration. You may also include any additional cases the nominee(s) participated in during timeframe. You may attach additional pages.