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

**2023 Contest Rules**

The Foreign Service Institute (FSI), in collaboration with the Foreign Service Youth Foundation (FSYF), announces the 28th annual worldwide KidVid Contest, open to children between the ages of 10 and 18. We seek original videos which depict life for Foreign Service youth at their post. The Overseas Briefing Center (OBC), a division of FSI’s Transition Center, administers the contest. FSYF provides cash prizes.

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

Video content should include the topics below.

**VIDEO RECORDING**

Provide video recording and please be sure to follow all relevant COVID-related health and safety protocols when filming. Examples include:

**An Introduction**

1. Introduce yourself (use first name **only**), and tell us your age, your family’s current overseas assignment, and how long you have currently been at post.
2. Describe your current family. Who are the members of your immediate family? Do you have a pet with you overseas?
3. What does your family do for fun? If possible, show recreational activities outside your home or neighborhood.

**City**

1. Offer viewers a look at some major sights.
2. If possible, provide a view of the city from a high point.
3. Film local neighborhoods and shopping areas that you use.
4. Show an example of the typical landscape and/or different animals (if applicable).
5. How are you and your family visiting these locations? If you cannot visit the sites, how are you learning about them?
6. Show your favorite places to go in the city.

**Housing**

1. Film some housing views, providing at least a couple of examples from different embassy neighborhoods, especially if housing differs considerably in various locations. Do **NOT** reveal exact locations (neighborhood, address, and street) or exterior views 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.
2. Provide a view of a typical bedroom for different age groups.
3. Video a backyard or play areas for kids.
4. Where do you and your family spend most of the time at home? How do you use the space?

**School**

1. Show your school facility. Describe your school experience. What do you like about your school?
2. Offer a view of school buildings, playgrounds, and sports fields.
3. Film classrooms, the library, a computer room, chemistry lab or other rooms of interest.
4. Provide short clips of school activities in progress if possible, including students and teachers.
5. Film sports teams and facilities if possible.

**Shopping**

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

**Community Life**

1. What activities do you do with your family? Are there favorite board games you play? Do you have family movie nights?
2. What kind of recreational activities do you have at your post? Include footage examples such as a swimming pool, American Club, beaches, horseback riding, local activities, etc.
3. How do you celebrate U.S. or local holidays at post?
4. What are the biggest tourist attractions at your post?
5. What is the internet service like?
6. What are your ways to connect online with friends in the United States or at other overseas posts?
7. What are the favorite restaurants in the city? Do you have restaurants like those that are in the United States? Does your family prefer to cook at home and if so, what is your favorite meal?

**ELIGIBITY, CONTEST 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.

**Contest Procedures**

All contestants must have obtained written consent from one of their parents or a legal guardian to enter or participate in the KidVid Contest. Videos must be submitted, using the contest submission form, by a parent or legal guardian, not by the contestant.

**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://forms.gle/ooA3p8wFqUKw62qW8](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FooA3p8wFqUKw62qW8&data=05%7C01%7CAndonovskiV%40state.gov%7C5d08ab292c4942999d1f08dac9936f08%7C66cf50745afe48d1a691a12b2121f44b%7C0%7C0%7C638043932300518635%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=yAOpwG8bAR7WOYjkK6WsMD9YP7vqJXwYqM%2Fc%2FQJ5LWI%3D&reserved=0)) 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. Please use this link ([https://forms.gle/KGZZzoQPJnJuFZZx5](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fforms.gle%2FKGZZzoQPJnJuFZZx5&data=05%7C01%7CAndonovskiV%40state.gov%7C8a331cf0c6a54e6f928f08dac996ab4e%7C66cf50745afe48d1a691a12b2121f44b%7C0%7C0%7C638043946192499789%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZCM%2FO%2BumXP76y3CopDZ2O4Uip8vD%2FsR9bBPihUI9WxY%3D&reserved=0)) **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 April 15, 2023. The OBC is expecting to announce the contest winners by the end of May 2023.

**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 vs. photos. 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. 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 recommended video length should be no longer than 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. Winning entries will also be posted on 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 OBC, a division of FSI’s Transition Center, administers the contest. FSYF also sponsors other contests for Foreign Service youth, with information available at <https://www.fsyf.org/ContestsAwards>.

**QUESTIONS**

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