

Chicago 4th-Grader Wins National Contest With Poster About Distracted Walking

NEW YORK, June 4, 2018 -- A student in the fourth grade at the Audubon School in Chicago won first place in the DeFeet Distractions poster contest sponsored by The National Road Safety Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit. Audrey Ruger won \$500 for her poster, which shows people looking down at their phones while walking, under the headline "Don't become a Phone Zombie." Her teacher, Amanda Matteson, won a \$250 gift card. Entries came in from around the country.

The contest, distributed nationwide to schools by Scholastic, the global children's publishing, education and media company, asked children in kindergarten through grade 5 to design a poster to help get the message out about pedestrian safety, which is timely as pedestrian deaths rose last year to their highest point in 28 years. Pedestrian incidents, including those involving cars, are also responsible for hundreds of thousands of injuries every year.

Runners-up each received a \$150 prize, and their teachers got \$100 gift cards. The runners-up are Erni, a first-grader at Shwab Elementary School in Nashville, Tenn., Diana, a second-grader at Millenia Elementary School in Orlando, Fla., Chloe, a third-grader in Petal Elementary in Petal, Miss., Mason, a fourth-grader at Chicod Elementary School in Greenville, NC, and Gianna, in the fifth grade at Championship Academy of Distinction in Davie, Fla.

"With the growing popularity of hand-held devices among younger children, the risks of injury from distracted walking have increased," said Michelle Anderson, Director of Operations at The National Road Safety Foundation. "It's important that young people understand the dangers of walking while distracted."

For more than 55 years, The National Road Safety Foundation, Inc. (NRSF) has been dedicated to reducing crashes, deaths and injuries on our nation's highways by promoting safe driving habits through greater public awareness.

NRSF produces documentaries, educational programs and public service campaigns for broadcast and for use in safety, educational and enforcement programs by police, teachers, traffic safety agencies, healthcare professionals, youth advocacy groups and other grass-roots related agencies, as well as federal, state and local government agencies. NRSF also works with youth advocacy groups and sponsors contests to engage teens in promoting safe driving to their peers and in their communities. For information or to download free programs, visit www.teenlane.org.

(Note to editors: Full names are not listed here, for privacy because of the winners' ages. If a runner-up is in your area, please contact us for information.)

