



UCT inAction

Information for UCT's Members and Councils

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UCT's Medal of Honor Program – simplified to make it easier for local councils to participate!

The Medal of Honor Program, starting with this membership year, has been simplified to make it easier and more flexible for councils to achieve the highest medal level possible. We want more councils to get involved and shoot for success!

The program still runs annually from **April 1 to March 31** of the next year, and gives set requirements to strive to achieve on four award levels – this time **platinum**, **gold**, **silver** and **bronze** Medals of Honor. Each council earning a platinum medal of honor is awarded **\$750** and a certificate; each council winning a gold medal receives **\$400** and a certificate; each council attaining a silver medal is given **\$200** plus a certificate; and each council achieving a bronze medal receives **\$100** and a certificate.

The revised program provides your council with incentive to increase active participation in three main focus areas:



maintaining fraternal traditions, holding and participating in community service through volunteering and making donations, and creating UCT and local council awareness through traditional and social media. Medal winners will be recognized at the UCT convention, though program books will no longer be sent to the convention, and featured in *The Sample Case* magazine. Councils will be recognized only for the highest level achieved.

New program guidelines have been distributed to local council secretaries and are available online at www.uct.org/members-area/uct-programs/medal-of-honor-program, so why not start thinking now about the medal level your council might like to achieve? It's not too late to get started!

**Questions about the program?
Contact Linda Fisher at
lfisher@uct.org or at
800.848.0123 x1130.**

Use the Causes of the Month Calendar as a community service guide!

UCT has created the Causes of the Month Calendar to provide members information on what causes and charities are represented each month throughout the year to use as a guide when determining what community service projects to take on. The calendar is available on the Members' Area of our website at www.uct.org.

As you can see, each month has several causes that you can choose to support, depending on the needs of your community! We recommend you take a look to see what might work for your community and your council. Remember, projects can be as simple as a few hours of volunteering or a full-fledged fundraising campaign.

As always, contact Linda Fisher at lfisher@uct.org or at 800.848.0123 x1130 with any questions.



UCT sponsors an annual safety poster contest for students in public, private and parochial schools and for students with intellectual disabilities. Schools across North America are eligible to participate, once contacted by a UCT local council. Judging is conducted in three levels for each division. Posters are judged according to originality, artistic ability and clarity of content. Judging takes place at the UCT home office, and winners are awarded cash prizes.

The contest is designed to give students in local communities an opportunity to address safety issues that personally affect them and to do so creatively. It's sometimes easy to forget just what the contest means to the young people participating in it – and especially to those winning at the higher levels. However, we were reminded of this recently when we received a thank you email from the mother of one of the public, private and parochial school winners explaining how winning at the international level affected her daughter. As you'll see, councils sponsoring safety poster contests in their local schools are having a far greater impact than they might think possible.

"The reason I am sending you this communication is I wanted to thank you for the opportunity made available to our daughter Lisa through your organization's safety poster contest. Until receiving the packet with her winning poster, ribbon and check, we were not aware of Lisa's entry, and we did not know of the project made available by UCT to so many schools.

Lisa entered the contest with anti-bullying as her theme. She has suffered bullying firsthand – both at public and, more recently, parochial schools. She has moderate functional dyslexia and in fifth grade was also diagnosed having ADHD, which is well managed with minimal Rx medicine and special learning interventions/teaching plans. Between Lisa's academic struggles,



victimization secondary to getting bullied, and dealing with such at a vulnerable age for any girl, she has become reclusive, withdrawn, and sad. This past year, we sought individualized counseling for her, which helped her very much.

Receiving your mailing put such a smile on her face! Her award for third place in your poster contest validated the artistic creativeness that I have always boasted of about her. It thrilled me that her creativity had an opportunity to be recognized and spotlighted by UCT.

She has been smiling since being notified of her win, making eye contact and interacting with others again. You should know that your contest presents much more than an opportunity for children to win money. Lisa has gained so much more – as have we, her family – by being given the chance to turn a negative life experience into something so positive. Thank you most sincerely for this opportunity made available to her."

Why not get your local schools involved in the UCT Safety Poster Contest and help impact the lives of students? Safety poster rules will be sent to local council secretaries around mid-September and are already available on the Members' Area of our website at www.uct.org.

If you're interested in learning how to get your council involved in the safety poster contest, contact Linda Fisher at lfisher@uct.org or at 800.848.0123 x1130.