

Dear Educator,

We need you to help us recruit **Sign Warriors!**

Even the most attentive driver can miss a corner or curve or zoom unsafely through an intersection if signs are damaged or missing. That's why the local road agencies in your area are working with the N.D. Technical Assistance Program to launch a sign protection awareness program in schools across the state.



The program features a "Sign Warrior" cartoon superhero whose motto, "SAVE OUR SIGNS!" encourages **4th grade elementary-age youth** to be alert to the four major dangers to North Dakota road signs: shooting, stealing, graffiti, and other damage. The program features a drawing contest so that young artists can help us illustrate the dangers and the efforts of the Sign Warrior to protect the state's signs.

Drawings should be on letter-size paper (11 X 8 ½) and drawn in landscape orientation (wider than they are tall). On the back of the drawing, include the student's name, teacher's name, teacher's email, county, school and school address. Drawings must be submitted to NDLTAP, 515 ½ East Broadway, Bismarck, ND, 58501, by no later than Nov. 5. Alternatively: Drawings may be scanned or digitally photographed at a resolution of at least 300 dpi and emailed to ndltap@ugpti.org.

NDLTAP will choose 16 drawings to feature on a 2019 Sign Warrior calendar to be distributed across the state. The calendars and the outstanding featured drawings will help draw attention to the dangers and costs of sign damage across North Dakota. Teachers of the winning entries will be contacted before printing to confirm student information. Students submitting winning drawings will receive an official Sign Warrior certificate and 10 copies of the calendar.

Missing or damaged signs can lead to traffic accidents resulting in property damage, injury and death. Many local road agencies across the state fight an expensive and constant battle to keep signs in place and in good repair. That effort costs tax dollars and the valuable time spent that could be better spent on other important road maintenance and improvement efforts.

Unfortunately, teens and young adults are often involved in vandalizing or stealing signs. We are hoping that making youth aware of the dangers that missing or damaged signs pose to their friends and family, we can reduce sign damage and theft in the future.

We hope that you will use this activity in your classroom to create a new generation of Sign Warriors!

Best regards,

