

# SAFETY MAKES A SPLASH!

The 2026 HAI Group Playground Safety Poster and Essay Contest



## Calling all scuba divers, mermaids, and ocean explorers!

Welcome to the playground seas, where young deep-sea voyagers splash into fun, discover new adventures, and learn how to keep everyone safe. Just like in the ocean, playground safety helps everyone enjoy the journey. HAI Group's 2026 Playground Safety Poster and Essay Contest theme is **Safety Makes a Splash!**

As **National Playground Safety Week (April 20–24)** approaches, invite young residents ages 6–14 to dive into creative ideas that show how smart choices and awareness help keep playgrounds safe for all.

## Dive into the challenge

Encourage your young underwater adventurers to use their creativity to design a splash-themed poster or write an essay about how to keep playgrounds safe and fun. Remind them that their creations should reflect the spirit of safety and imagination, without showing weapons or violence.

- **Calm seas only:** No rough seas – no rough play. When the seas are calm, everyone stays safe. Walk, take turns, and keep pushing and rough play out of the playground waters.
- **Don't be shellfish – share the playground:** Play nicely with others, take turns, and make sure everyone gets a chance to have fun.
- **Guardians of the playground reef:** Sharp shells, wobbly boards, or broken gear? Alert a trusted grown-up so our playgrounds stay safe.
- **Stay in your coral cove:** Use equipment made for your age group to help avoid slips, falls, and wipe-outs.
- **Follow the safety tide:** Playground rules are the currents that keep everyone moving smoothly. Follow them so the fun can keep flowing.

**HAI Group will reward the best posters and essays. Make a splash with safety and help keep playground adventures safe for everyone.**



## Contest details

Participants must be between **6 and 14 years old** in 2026 and reside at a housing organization that is an existing HAI Group policyholder with property or general liability coverage.

HAI Group will select **one poster winner and one essay winner** in each age group:

6- to 8-years-old | 9- to 11-years-old | 12- to 14-years-old

All submissions must address playground safety and incorporate this year's theme: **Safety Makes a Splash!**

Posters should be created on 22-inch by 28-inch poster board or smaller; essays can be hand-written or typed and should be no longer than 500 words. HAI Group will award three prizes in each category from national submissions (winning is a great honor!):

- **First-place winners:** \$100 Walmart gift card
- **Second-place winners:** \$40 Walmart gift card
- **Third-place winners:** \$25 Walmart gift card

## How can my housing organization participate?

HAI Group encourages your organization to participate in this fun, safety-focused contest.

**Here's how to get started:**

1. Email, fax, or mail the attached registration form by **Friday, April 3, 2026**, to declare your organization's intent to participate.
2. Promote the contest to your residents using the attached flyer or your own communications.
3. Judge your local contest entries during Playground Safety Week—April 20 to April 24. We recommend awarding first, second, and third-place prizes in each age group.
4. Submit the original first-place essay and first-place poster in each age group (six total) for national judging to HAI Group by **Friday, May 1, 2026**. Please note that submissions will not be returned. Also, send a list of all participants with their names, ages, and categories (essay or poster). HAI Group will send a certificate of participation to each participant.
5. Each submission must have the following clearly written on the back: participant's name, age, address, and housing organization.
6. HAI Group will judge all submissions in late May and announce national winners soon thereafter.
7. By participating in this contest, you agree to allow HAI Group to publish submitted photographs. If you do not wish us to use photographs, please email Debbie Seidel at [dseidel@haigroup.com](mailto:dseidel@haigroup.com) to indicate your preference.

**HAI Group must receive all contest entries and participant lists by  
Friday, May 1, 2026.**

# THE HAI GROUP 2026 PLAYGROUND SAFETY POSTER & ESSAY CONTEST FORM

Please fill out this registration form if your housing organization plans to participate.  
*(Do not register individual children on this form.)*

Housing Organization Name:

Contact Name:

Title:

E-mail Address:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

We will participate in the following:

Poster Contest

Essay Contest

Poster and Essay Contest

This form is fillable and can be submitted by email, or printed out and sent by regular mail or fax. Please send in your registration no later than **Friday, April 3, 2026**.

Email: [dseidel@housingcenter.com](mailto:dseidel@housingcenter.com)

Mail to:

Attn: Debbie Seidel  
HAI Group  
189 Commerce Court  
P.O. Box 189  
Cheshire, CT 06410



Fax to:

203-250-8377

Attention: Debbie Seidel