We never give up hope.

Rapid Response Team
eVolunteer Guide

Polly Klaas® Foundation
www.pollyklaas.org / rapidresponse@pollyklaas.org
800-671-3770 (eVolunteer program)
800-587-4357 (Missing Child Emergency)
Welcome to our Rapid Response Team eCommunity

Thank you for your commitment to finding missing children. You have joined a large group of people who are actively working to help bring children home.

This eVolunteer Guide is a tool you can use to get started right away. Please take the time to carefully read through the Guide, so you can get right to work.

One of the great things about our eVolunteer program is the members only listserve/message board. You can freely ask questions, get answers, offer suggestions and tips, share your ideas with other eVolunteers, and hear about children who have been found. Will you please join our members only listserve/message board? To join send a blank email to: rapid_response_team-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.  

You can also email us directly at rapidresponse@pollyklaas.org, or call the eVolunteer office at 800-671-3770.

We are grateful for every moment you spend working with us to help find missing children. Joining us in this helpful and meaningful way truly brings us added hope and spirit. Thank you.

Inspiration

Our motto is “We never give up hope.”

Because along with the tragedies, we have seen some amazing things over the years. And we know that hope helps make those amazing things happen.

We never give up hope.
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*We never give up hope.*
Inspiration

13 year-old Deborah* went missing with her father, who was being investigated for sexual abuse against her. Four days later, the father's blue pick-up was found abandoned along a rural highway in a remote wilderness area.

The Polly Klaas® Foundation was initially contacted by Deborah’s school, and the local sheriff’s office requested a missing child poster distribution. We distributed over 8,000 posters throughout the state.

The sheriff’s office said our posters “prompted a lot of phone calls and leads.” Within 10 days of the poster distribution, a work crew stumbled upon Deborah and her father in a remote area. The work crew recognized them from a poster and the media coverage, and called law enforcement.

The father was arrested on a sex charge, and Deborah was placed in protective custody.

* Name changed for privacy.
Before You Do Anything

- Please read this eVolunteer Guide.
- Review the eVolunteer Duties (see below) and decide if this is the right program for you
  - If not, you can easily remove yourself from our eVolunteer list by clicking the unsubscribe link at the bottom of any Rapid Response Team email.
- Place rapidresponse@pollyklaas.org in your contacts list or white list, so you will be sure to get our emails. (2/3 of all emails are spam, so this helps get us past your spam filters.)
- Wait for your emails from rapidresponse@pollyklaas.org with instructions on which missing child poster to put up.

eVolunteer Duties

- You will receive an email from rapidresponse@pollyklaas.org.
- The email will contain a link to a poster of a missing child.
- Click through to the poster of the missing child.
- Print a copy of the poster, which is the size of a normal piece of paper 8 ½ “ × 11”.
- Make sure the number of copies of the missing child poster matches the number of places you will contact (see Getting Ready)
- Place the posters on community bulletin boards and in shop windows (see Your First Time Out)
  - Be sure to thank shopkeepers and bulletin board owners each time you place a new missing child poster.
- Stop placing posters when you have received an email from us telling you that the child has been found, or requesting an end to poster distribution.
- Wait for a new email from rapidresponse@pollyklaas.org with a new missing child poster.

**Recommendation:** You may want to do some clean-up of the bulletin boards and store fronts you use, and take down posters of children who are no longer missing.

You will receive approximately 10 different missing child posters per month.
- You can decide which posters you want to put up, and should especially consider cases that have local relevancy and potential.
- You can decide how many places you want to put each poster.
- There is no competition for putting up the most posters

**Inspiration**

You may feel this is a small contribution. We want you to know that each poster truly helps the children.

**We never give up hope.**
Getting Ready

- Review the List of Suggested Places to distribute your posters.
- Make a list of places in your community where you might be able to put up posters.
- Decide which places to go to first, and have your driving/walking route ready.
- Use that list to decide how many copies of a missing child poster you can distribute.
  - You may be able to put up 5 copies of a missing child poster—or 50. Please do whatever is realistic and right for you.

Your First Time Out

- Take a supply of thumbtacks and tape.
- If a bulletin board is available to the public, go ahead and place your missing child poster there.
- If you wish to place the poster in a shop window or on a monitored bulletin board, ask permission.
  - You might say:
    - “I am a volunteer with the Polly Klaas® Foundation. We help find missing children. I have been asked to distribute this missing child poster and hope you will support this effort by placing this in your shop window (or on your bulletin board)”
  - They might ask you if these posters actually do any good. You can reply:
    - “Yes they do. There are many children who have been found from these posters. People recognize the child and call leads into the Polly Klaas® Foundation or to law enforcement. Runaways may see their own poster and realize their family wants them to come home. Copies of their poster have been found in their pockets once they are home.”
  - You might want to bring extra copies of this eVolunteer Guide so the shopkeepers can see what you are doing.
  - Be sure to thank them if they agree.
  - Place the poster neatly in their window or on their bulletin boards.

Recommendation: This program is not for everyone. Some people may not feel comfortable having a poster of a missing child in their shop window or on their bulletin board. Please do not try to talk them into it. Avoid any confrontations. You might want to leave with the following statement:
- “I fully understand that this is not for everyone. Thank you so much for taking the time to talk with me. Thank you.”

Recommendation: Focus on establishments that are helpful and friendly to our cause. There are plenty of them.

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Things to Remember

- Your first time out may take longer than you expected, and you may have to go on more than one poster trip.
- It may take two or three times to create a routine and a driving route for putting up these posters.
- You are making the decisions about which missing child posters you are putting up and how many posters you are distributing.
- Since you will be receiving about 10 missing child posters each month, you may want to put some posters in some places and other posters in other places.
- Please, always be aware of your own personal safety, and never put yourself in danger.
- If you are under 18, please be sure your family knows your route and has given you permission.
- Please do what you can, but do not over commit your time and energy.
- Please let us know of any suggestions you have that can improve this program, help other volunteers, or help find more missing children.
- If you have any questions, please write in to the Rapid Response Team members only listserv/message board. To sign up, send an email to: rapid_response_team-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Inspiration

At times you may feel frustrated.
Please keep in mind that you are part of a large group of people who are actively working to help find missing children.

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List of Suggested Places for Missing Child Posters

While you are reading through this list, you might want to make notes of places in your community that would be ideal for putting up a missing child poster.

ALWAYS BE SAFE !!

- Only go to places where you feel safe. Please be aware of your surroundings and do not go anywhere you do not feel safe.
- Please be aware of local litter and poster laws. Do not litter or place posters in illegal places.

Suggested Places:

- Fast food restaurants
- Bus and train stations
- Homeless shelters and food kitchens
- Teen hangouts
- Truck stops
- Gas stations
- Auto repair shops
- Laundromat
- Bulletin boards
- Store fronts
- Cafes, coffee shops
- Beauty and nail shops
- Grocery stores
- Discount stores
- Motels, hotels and other accommodations
- Bars and restaurants
- Places of worship
- Health clubs
- Pre-schools and schools
- Lunchrooms at work or offices
- Sometimes restaurants and places of business have a bulletin board for employees. Not all posters need to be placed in a public place.

Use this list to help you:

- Decide the locations where you would like to place a missing child poster.
- Decide the number of missing child posters you want to make.
- Prepare the driving/walking route you will take when you are putting up the posters.
- Review and update your poster route as you become more aware of poster opportunities in your community and see how many posters you are able to distribute.

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Rapid Response Team FAQs

• Rapid Response Team FAQ’s
• Missing Child Poster FAQ’s

Rapid Response Team FAQ’s

How many missing child posters will I be asked to put up in my community?

We will send you about 10 different missing child posters each month. You decide which posters you want to distribute—and how many.

Posters help find many missing children. The sooner posters go up:
• The higher chance the child and abductor can be recognized.
• The less chance abductors and missing children can go underground without being recognized.

Do I have to distribute every poster you send me?

You make the decisions about the amount of time and level of effort you can donate to this worthy cause. You decide which posters you will distribute—and how many. You may decide to focus on posters of children abducted in your area. We are truly grateful for your help.

Will you tell me when a missing child has been found?

Yes, we will send you an email telling you when a missing child has been found. We will also ask you to stop distributing that child’s poster at the appropriate time.

Will you tell me the details of how the child was found?

Occasionally families give us permission to tell their stories. When that happens, we will share that information with you on the Rapid Response Team members only listserv/message board. If a family has set up a website for their child, we will also share that information on the listserve/message board. Otherwise we need to respect the privacy of the family and the child, and keep that information confidential.

What do I do if someone tells me their child is missing or has run away?

Have them immediately call local law enforcement and file a missing persons report (there is no waiting period in the United States.) If the child went missing from a location in the United States, have them call the Polly Klaas® Foundation and talk with one of our professional case workers. They can call 800-587-4357 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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What if a child in my community is kidnapped?

If the child has been reported missing to the Polly Klaas® Foundation, and if the family and law enforcement want posters distributed, we will send out the link to the child’s poster to all members of the Rapid Response Team eVolunteers. Please distribute that poster throughout the community.

If you would like to help further, please contact your local law enforcement to see what opportunities are available. Be sure to let them know our poster services are available for children that go missing from a location in the United States.

Why is Rapid Response Team membership only open to people in the United States?

The Polly Klaas® Foundation is currently focused on helping to find children who have gone missing from locations in the United States.

We are encouraged by the enthusiasm of people around the world to help find missing children. In the future, we are planning eVolunteer programs for people throughout the world focusing on abduction prevention.

Will the Polly Klaas® Foundation pay for my expenses and my gas while I am distributing missing child posters?

No, as a volunteer you will be responsible for all your own expenses, including health and auto insurance. Please contact your tax specialist regarding your ability to claim a deduction for your expenses on your income taxes.

Some people I talk to want to donate to the Polly Klaas® Foundation, what do I do?

Please let them know we are grateful for each donation, and that we are funded almost entirely through private donations. They can go to our website www.PollyKlaas.org and donate online, or they can mail us a donation at:

Polly Klaas® Foundation
PO Box 800
Petaluma, CA  94953

I have some ideas that might help other eVolunteers on the Rapid Response Team.

Wonderful, please join the Rapid Response Team members only listserve/message board and send us your helpful hints. We may use your suggestions to update this eVolunteer Guide and the website. We really want to hear from you.

How did this program get started?

In the spring of 2005 we did a survey of our online eCommunity members. Many respondents wanted to help us distribute posters of missing children, so this program was developed as a direct response to those requests.

We never give up hope.
Missing Child Poster FAQ's
Do posters really help find missing children?

Yes they do. Many children have been found through posters.

- People recognize the child and call their leads into the Polly Klaas® Foundation or the law enforcement agency listed on the poster.
- Runaways will often see their own poster and realize that their family wants them to return home. Sometimes, copies of their poster have been found in the pocket of their jeans once they return home.

Who decides to create a missing child poster?

When a child goes missing, parents first call their local law enforcement and file a missing persons report. After that, if the child is missing from a location in the United States many parents call the Polly Klaas® Foundation. Our professional caseworkers talk with the parents and with the law enforcement officers working the case. If both parties agree, our caseworkers create the poster from information provided by the parents. The child’s poster is sent to the family for distribution in their community, placed on our website, faxed to our distribution lists, and sent out to our Missing Child Poster Group for distribution.

A lot of the missing child posters are for children kidnapped by a family member. Aren’t those just “domestic disputes?”

Family abductions account for almost 80% of abducted children each year. In these situations, the child is torn from all that is familiar, is often lied to and endangered. The consequences can last a lifetime. At the Polly Klaas® Foundation, we respect the custody decisions of family courts and work to restore each child to his or her legally designated guardian. For more information, see www.StopFamilyAbductionsNow.org and www.TakeRoot.org.

I also see posters for children who have run away.

The myth about runaways is that they are not at risk because they’ve chosen to leave home. The truth is that kids rarely have the background to survive life on the streets without becoming more endangered through drug use and prostitution. And some “runaways” are later found to have been abducted or lured by a predator.

I saw a news report of a missing child, but I don’t see that child on your website and haven’t been asked to put up a poster. I would like to help.

We can only create posters when the parents and local law enforcement ask us to provide this service for children who have gone missing from a location in the United States. Sometimes law enforcement officials do not want posters distributed because they don’t want to “scare off” a suspected abductor. Also, not all missing children are reported to the Polly Klaas® Foundation.

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Inspiration

One-year-old James* was abducted by his non-custodial mother. She had multiple warrants out for her arrest, including two felony warrants and was a known drug user.

After being contacted by James’ custodial grandparents, the Polly Klaas® Foundation caseworker contacted the law enforcement investigator in charge, and he requested we distribute posters of James.

Thousands of posters were distributed in several states over a period of 6 months. Seven months after he was abducted, James was found. One law enforcement agent said, “all of the pressure from the flyers and agents on the street led to … [the mother] turning herself in.”

We received an email from the custodial grandmother who stated, “I will never be able to thank you enough and you will never know how grateful we are to you.”

* Name changed for privacy.

We never give up hope.
eVolunteer Community

Our Goal:

Help find more missing children—as soon as possible—by building an eVolunteer force that distributes missing child posters in communities.

We are grateful you are joining us in our work to help find missing children.

As more and more people join us we will surely help find more missing children sooner. While you may be working alone or with a friend, we want you to know you are part of a growing movement which is developing across the country to safeguard the welfare of our children. Please remember this always.

We will do our best to give you the tools you need to distribute posters of missing children. There is a listserve/message board so you can communicate with other members of the Rapid Response Team. To join the listserve, please send a blank email to: rapid_response_team-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

We have set up a special section on our website to provide you with eVolunteer stories, and to keep you informed of new developments (http://www.pollyklaas.org/evolunteer/rrt-members/). You may want to bookmark this page.

You should be able to get answers to most of your questions on the members only Rapid Response Team listserve/message board. If you need to talk with eVolunteer management, please call 800-671-3770, or email rapidresponse@pollyklaas.org. You are an essential part of our work and our eCommunity.

Your work is important to us, and to the children. Thank you so much for joining us in our partnership to help find missing children.

We never give up hope.
MISSING

IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT AMBER:
CALL THE OKLAHOMA CITY POLICE DEPT (405) 297-1000
OR CALL THE POLLY KLAAS FOUNDATION (800) 587-4357

AMBER RENE BARKER
Missing from Oklahoma City, OK

Date Missing: 12/18/97
Date of Birth: 2/14/87
Age at Disappearance: 10 years
Height: 4'11
Weight: 65-70 lbs.
Eyes: Brown
Race: Caucasian
Complexion: Olive
Other: Pierced ears
Last Seen Wearing: long-sleeved beige shirt with a brown collar, black jeans and "No Excuses" tennis shoes.

Amber was last seen at a friend's house on N.W. 45th Ave in Oklahoma City, OK. She left at about 6:00 PM and was last seen riding her bicycle down Drexel Blvd. toward her home at NW 39th Terrace.

Amber's bicycle was discovered near a tree Friday morning in Denniston Park at NW 25th and Drexel. Her tennis shoes were also found about a block apart near Drexel and NW 12th.

A service of the Polly Klaas Search Center
Flyer Revised June 2004

Si Ud tiene alguna información, por favor llame a la Policía de Oklahoma City, OK (405) 297-1000
do The Polly Klaas Foundation (800) 587-4357
How to Look at a Missing Child Picture

You would be surprised how often missing children are found from their pictures on websites, posters and in your mailbox.

We know it's emotionally tough to do, but here's how to look at these important pictures:

- Pause.
- Silence the little voice that says, "I'd never recognize anyone."
- Take a moment and just look—focus on facial features, not on clothing, glasses, or hair.
- If you get the feeling you've seen the child, believe it.
- You'll probably soon remember where and when—or you can search www.pollyklaas.org and other missing child databases to jog your memory.
- Call our caseworkers at 1-800-587-4357. You can provide information anonymously or leave your name.

Inspiration

Several years ago, workers for a septic tank company in Wyoming had a strange feeling about three children they met. They went online and found the children’s pictures on a missing poster and informed law enforcement. The three children were rescued and returned to their custodial mother.