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Statewide Red Ribbon Week Door Decorating Contest

October 15, 2025, ANCHORAGE, AK — The Alaska Department of Health, in collaboration with Governor Mike Dunleavy, is excited to announce the Second Annual Red Ribbon Week Door Decorating Contest for schools across Alaska. This contest, which closes October 29, 2025, is part of the nation's longest-running drug prevention campaign, Red Ribbon Week, which occurs annually each October.

"Life is a Puzzle, Solve It Drug Free", is this year's theme, created by Cheryl Holsapfel, a Digital Art Teacher, and Devansh Aggarwal, a seventh grader from Solon Middle School in Ohio. This year's theme symbolizes how every choice fits into the bigger picture. Just like a puzzle coming together, a drug-free lifestyle helps build a stronger, brighter future—one piece at a time.

In his proclamation recognizing Red Ribbon Week, Governor Mike Dunleavy encouraged "all Alaskans to participate in drug prevention education activities, not only during Red Ribbon Week, but also throughout the year, making a visible statement that we are strongly committed to protecting Alaska's youth from the dangers of substance misuse through a drug-free lifestyle."

Teachers and students are invited to get creative, using puzzle pieces, posters, or original artwork to convey the message that living drug-free leads to a brighter future. Resources for educators can be [found here](#), including activities for youth kindergarten through high school.

"We were so impressed by the creativity and thoughtfulness of last year's entries, and we loved seeing how schools brought the drug-free message to life in unique ways," said Department of Health Commissioner Heidi Hedberg. "This year, our goal is to build on that momentum, sparking engaging conversations in classrooms, inspiring Alaska's students to make healthy choices, and giving parents and families an opportunity to talk about the dangers of drugs and alcohol in a positive, supportive way. The contest is a chance for educators, students, and trusted adults to come together once again and show their commitment to living drug-free and preventing substance misuse among Alaska's youth."

Prizes:

- An Amazon gift card for the winning door design in each age group, and other special prizes
- Featured doors on Alaska Department of Health's social media channels

How to Enter: Submit photos or videos of decorated doors by October 29, 2025, using the [DOH's online submission form](#).

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