



Alaska Railroad Corporation Operation Lifesaver Alaska **NEWS RELEASE**

DATE: May 17, 2013
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Children invited to share art that promotes rail safety

Operation Lifesaver and Alaska Railroad kids art contest May 18-June 30

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – The Alaska Railroad (ARRC) and Operation Lifesaver Alaska (OL-AK) chapter are jointly sponsoring a children's art contest aimed at building awareness of important rail safety tips. Children from pre-school to senior high are invited to create drawings or paintings that illustrate ways to be safe around railroad tracks and crossings, and to submit their artwork by July 5 for a chance to win free rail travel.

Dubbed "Rail Safety in Alaska: Picture It" the contest is part of a larger summer rail safety initiative that kicked off May 11. Sponsored by ARRC and OL-AK the "Track Wise: Alaska Railroad Summer Safety Campaign" includes numerous activities including OL information and giveaways at public events; bike-rail safety promotion; rail safety signs on public buses, ARRC locomotives, and along biking/walking trails; public service announcements; the kids art contest; and more.

Operation Lifesaver Alaska is a local chapter of the national/international civic organization (Operation Lifesaver Inc.; or OLI), that promotes education, enforcement and engineering efforts to keep people safe around railroad tracks and crossings within our communities.

As part of the contest, children are asked to draw or paint art that brings any of the following rail safety tips to light: Stay off the tracks; stay at least 20 feet away from the tracks; obey crossing signs and signals, cross the tracks only at designated crossings; always expect a train and look both ways before crossing the tracks, never ride (horse, ATV, bike, snow machine, etc.) on the tracks, never climb on or under rail equipment on the tracks. More tips are available at the Operation Lifesaver web site, www.oli.org.

Key contest dates to remember:

- July 5: Entries must be received at the Alaska Railroad headquarters building.
- July 17: Judging will be complete.
- July 21: Winning entries will be notified by phone or email (as provided on entry forms).
- July 25: Prizes will be mailed to the address provided on the entry form.
- August/September: Winning entries and Honorable Mentions will be hung in Alaska Railroad depots and posted online.

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The contest includes three age categories: 1) preschool through kindergarten; 2) first through sixth grade; and 3) junior and senior high school. Prizes will be awarded for each category and include the grand prize of free rail travel for 4 people, and second prize of free rail travel for 2 people.

Contest rules, instructions and an official entry form are available on the Alaska Railroad web site's Operation Lifesaver page: www.AlaskaRailroad.com > Corporation > Safety & Security (vertical menu) > Operation Lifesaver. There is no cost to enter artwork.

For more information about the children's rail safety art contest, or the overall summer rail safety campaign, contact ARRC Corporate Communications Officer Stephenie Wheeler at (907) 265-2671 or External Affairs Manager Tim Sullivan at (907) 265-2357.

The ARRC is an Equal Opportunity Corporation. If you need special assistance (including language) in order to participate in any ARRC service, program, or activity, please contact the Alaska Railroad Corporation; P.O. Box 107500; Anchorage, AK 99510; Attention: Legal Department, zappasi@akrr.com, (907) 265-2461; via Alaska Relay Service for hearing impaired – dial 7 11 anywhere inside Alaska, OR dial toll-free from anywhere outside the state 1-800-770-8255 (voice); 1-800 770-8973 (TTY). Upon request, printed materials can be made available in alternate formats

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