

2025 Student Art Contest Rules and Requirements



Each grade K-12 will be judged for Awards of Excellence and Merit in four categories:

REALISM

True-to-life art in the tradition of the American wildlife artists. The bird is easy to identify with accurate coloring and markings. The student must do a freehand drawing. No obvious tracings, stamps, stencils or computer works will be considered for an award. No 3D artwork.

Medium: Colored pencil, ink, marker, watercolor, tempera paint, pastels, etc. Art must be in color, unless the bird's coloring is black and/or white.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Emphasis on color, composition, shape and design rather than realism, yet retaining elements that are specific to a bird's identification. For example, bird(s) must still be identifiable as a Cardinal or Blue Jay.

Medium: Colored pencil, ink, marker, watercolor, tempera paint, pastels, colored or textured paper, fabric, etc. No 3D artwork.

CARTOONING

Any style cartoon drawing with some indication of the kind of bird portrayed, indicated by bird shape and some identifiable markings. Art may be a one-panel cartoon or a story cartoon of several panels, with or without captions. Entries that include age-inappropriate content, such as tobacco, firearms or alcohol, will not be exhibited at the Art Show.

Medium: Colored pencil, ink, water colors, marker, crayon.

RECYCLED

Emphasis on creative use of recycled or up-cycled materials with some indication of the kind of bird portrayed, indicated by bird shape and some identifiable markings.

Medium: Materials that have been previously used and/or destined for recycling. Colored pencil, ink, marker, watercolor, tempera paint and glue may also be used. Do not use clay or ceramics as they are not recycled.

See SPECIAL requirements for this category listed below.

RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

Digitally created artwork will NOT be accepted, including photo prints, laser prints or electronic media.

All artwork should be two-dimensional, and may be as small as 8" x 10" or as large as 11" x 14." Please mount artwork on either white or black backing, such as construction paper or poster board. The backing should provide a 2-4-inch margin on top and sides and a 4-6-inch margin on the bottom. Each work of art requires an entry form attached at the bottom.

NOTE: Entry forms should be mounted securely on the FRONT of the artwork, centered underneath the artwork, on the 4-6-inch margin of the backing. Adults may choose to print out the entry forms for younger students, as these entry forms will be the only student identification on the artwork. Entry form and list of materials can be attached to lid for three-dimensional entries in the Recycled category.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RECYCLED

Artwork may be two-dimensional or THREE-DIMENSIONAL/Freestanding. Materials used should be dry, clean and safe – no rough or sharp edges. DO NOT use bird by-products, such as feathers, eggs or eggshells. Please mount two-dimensional art securely on either white or black backing, such as construction paper or poster board. Each work of art requires an entry form and for this category a list of materials.

If art is 3-Dimensional/Freestanding, it can be no larger than 14" x 8" x 5" and weigh no more than four pounds maximum. Do not use clay or ceramics as they are not recycled. Art must be submitted in a shoebox-sized container with lid so it can be transported safely.

ENTRY DEADLINE MARCH 6, 7 AND 8

ART SHOW AND AWARDS CEREMONY APRIL 26