



Current Art Contests

Entering art contests provides a range of benefits, from inspiring creation to having an audience for artwork, to scholarship awards. For a list of art contests from around the world, read on!

Last Updated: 1/22/2026

California Coastal Commission

K-12 COASTAL ART & POETRY CONTEST

DEADLINE: January 29, 2026

This contest is open to California residents in grades K-12. Immediate family members of Coastal Commission staff are not eligible. Entries should be individual work, not group projects.

There are five grade categories for awards in both art and poetry: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. **Entries must have a California coastal or ocean theme** (for example, no tropical or arctic settings or species). Art does not need to depict specific places or species, but if it does, they must be California places and species. Meaning, sometimes a fish is just a "fish," but if it's a recognizable type of fish, make sure it's one that lives here! (Learn about [California native species](#).) And while you can submit a poem about "the beach," please don't submit one about Waikiki Beach, for example.

WEBSITE: <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/art-poetry/>

Engineergirl Engineerteen

ENGINEERING & ART: WRITING & DESIGN COMPETITION

DEADLINE: February 1, 2026

We would like you to use art to express how engineers create a better world! They say a picture is worth a thousand words, because images often tell an entire story. Visual thinking is an important part of engineering design, so this year we are trying something new with the EngineerGirl Writing Contest. We would like you to use art to express how engineers create a better world!

WEBSITE: <https://engineerteen.org/4586/contest>

U.S. Kids Magazine

U.S. KIDS MAGAZINE ART CONTEST

DEADLINE: February 1, 2026

At U.S. Kids Magazines, we believe in encouraging children's creativity and supporting our schools' art programs. Art offers children a unique means of expression, capturing their passions and emotions and fostering the exploration of new ideas, subject matter, and cultures. Each year, we invite readers and students from around the country to share their creative talents by entering our annual cover contest. Through this contest, U.S. Kids hopes to encourage young minds and those who teach them to continue creating wonderful art. "You can't use up creativity," writer Maya Angelou said. "The more you use, the more you have."

WEBSITE: <https://uskidsmags.com/artcontest/>

David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation

GLOBAL CANVAS 2026: THE BOOK OF LIFE

DEADLINE: February 19, 2026

The Book of Life holds as many as ten million species – from tiny plankton to towering elephants. Every time we discover a new animal, like the vegetarian piranha, the book gets bigger. But when a species goes extinct – like the Pinta Island tortoise – a page is lost forever. We already know how to protect the Book of Life. We can create wild protected areas, restore damaged habitats, rescue endangered species, and stop the illegal trade in wildlife. For Global Canvas 2026, show us how we can save the Book of Life forever.

WEBSITE: <https://davidshepherd.org/wildlife-art/competitions/global-canvas/>

The Art of Conservation

FISH ART CONTEST

DEADLINE: February 28, 2026

The Fish Art Contest is free to enter and open to all students in grades K–12. Students may submit one 2D entry (e.g., drawings, paintings, collages) and one 3D entry (e.g., sculptures, wood carvings, plastic portraits). Separate entry forms are available for 2D and 3D submissions, which will be judged and awarded separately. Previous entries are not eligible.

WEBSITE: <https://www.theartofconservation.org/fish-art-contest>

Ongoing Art Contests

Next Gen Artists

NEXT GEN ARTISTS AWARDS

DEADLINE: Ongoing

Ages 6-25 are welcome to participate! We at The NextGen Artists Awards are passionate about providing a virtual space to link current and successful professional artists with the next generation of creators. We are a platform that provides opportunities to create and engage with a network of talented and successful professional artists. We combine fun, creativity, and community into a professional career development framework that encourages young artists to create; successful artists to mentor; and communities to grow while providing the next generation of artists with opportunity, resources, and support to start their journey in the arts. Up to 5 artworks can be entered, and entry fee is \$40 per entry.

WEBSITE: <https://www.thenextgenartists.com/>

Worldwide Kids Drawings

WORLDWIDE KIDS DRAWING CONTEST

DEADLINE: Ongoing

This is a year round contest with no deadline. Winners will be announced when new drawings show on our winner's page. All contestants will be judged on their original style and artistic value. There is no theme to the drawing contest. Draw or paint what you feel represents your original style and artistic value. The contest is broken into three categories. Ages 6 through 8, ages 9 through 12 and ages 13 through 17. The contestants will be judged in these three categories, so everyone will have a great opportunity to win!

WEBSITE: <https://unric.org/en/category/united-nations-digital-engagement-hub/united-nations-competitions-and-contests/>

United Nations

UNITED NATIONS ART COMPETITIONS & CONTESTS

DEADLINE: Varies

Competitions and contests represent a fun and entertaining way for the United Nations family to communicate on its goals and objectives, informing and engaging citizens on issues of critical importance to the organization. The U.N. offers thousands of dollars in prizes to children and teens of all ages.

WEBSITE: <https://unric.org/en/category/united-nations-digital-engagement-hub/united-nations-competitions-and-contests/>

House of Representatives

CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

DEADLINE: Varies

Each spring, the [Congressional Institute](#) sponsors a nationwide high school visual art competition to recognize and encourage artistic talent in the nation and in each congressional district. Since the Artistic Discovery competition began in 1982, more than 650,000 high school students have participated. Students submit entries to their representative's office, and panels of district artists select the winning entries. Winners are recognized both in their

district and at an annual awards ceremony in Washington, DC. The winning works are displayed for one year at the U.S. Capitol.

WEBSITE: <https://www.house.gov/educators-and-students/congressional-art-competition>

US Kids Magazines

COVER ART CONTEST

DEADLINE: Ongoing

Children ages 2 through 12 are invited to make artwork based on this year's theme, "What is Your One Wish?". Winners are featured on the cover of Humpty Dumpty Magazine and Jack and Jill Magazine, with runners up featured inside the publications. Winners earn cash prizes of \$100-\$500 apiece!

WEBSITE: <http://uskidsmags.com/artcontest/rules.php>

Teen Ink

TEEN INK CONTESTS

DEADLINE: Ongoing

Each issue, one artist or photographer's work will be chosen to represent that month's issue. Check out some past covers to find inspiration for your cover! Submit your images now!

All photographs and artwork submitted to Teen Ink are automatically considered for the cover art contest.. The best images for the cover are clear, colored, high resolution, and vertically oriented. There are no deadlines; images are accepted and published throughout the year. Keep in mind if your submission has a seasonal or holiday theme, it's best to send it in early. If your submission is chosen for one of our covers, you will receive a \$25 gift card.

WEBSITE: <https://www.teenink.com/contests/CoverPhoto>

Scholastic

SCHOLASTIC ART COMPETITIONS

DEADLINE: Varies

Enter a number of contests, which rotate year-round, most of which provide scholarship funds. One of the largest art competitions in the U.S., affiliated with major colleges around the country. Create an account to view a range of contests.

WEBSITE: <https://www.artandwriting.org/awards/how-to-enter/>

Student Art Guide

MORE OPTIONS FOR TEENS

[Click here](#) for an encouraging article featuring another well-curated list of art contests for teens!



Every Child is a Masterpiece