



CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS

GENERAL GUIDELINES

The competition is open to high school students only. Exceptions may be made for schools that have 7th through 12th grades on campus.

Artwork must be two-dimensional. Artwork can be **no larger** than 26" x 26" x 4" (26 inches high, 26 inches wide, and 4 inches deep) **when framed**. Artwork that does not meet these specifications will **not be accepted and disqualified from the competition**. ***Our office will frame the winning artwork for the student***

Accepted mediums for the two-dimensional artwork are as follows:

- Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
- Drawings: colored pencil, pencil, ink, marker, pastels, charcoal, (it is recommended that charcoal and pastel drawings be fixed.)
- Collages: must be two dimensional.
- Prints: lithographs, silkscreen, block prints.
- Mixed media: use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc.
- Computer-generated art.
- Photographs.

Each entry must be **original** in concept, design, and execution and may not violate U.S. copyright laws. Any entry that has been copied from an existing photo or image (including a painting, graphic, or advertisement) that was created by someone other than the student is violation of the competition rules and **will not** be accepted.

Work entered must be in the original medium (that is, not a scanned reproduction of painting or drawing).

The winning artwork will hang in the Capitol for the **entire year** of the exhibition and **cannot** be returned to the students earlier. Students should, therefore, submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.

Additionally, all submitted artwork will hang at the South Bend Airport from **April 13** until **May 2**. After the artwork is removed from the airport, our office will contact students to let them know when they can pick up their artwork.

SUITABILITY GUIDELINES

As outlined in these guidelines, the final decision regarding the suitability of all artwork for the 2026 Congressional Art Competition exhibition in the Capitol will be made by a panel of qualified persons chaired by the Architect of the Capitol. While it is not the intent to censor any artwork, we do wish to avoid artwork that is potentially inappropriate for display in this highly travelled area leading to the Capitol.

Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission. In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or a sensationalistic or gruesome

nature are not allowed. It is necessary that all artwork be reviewed by the panel chaired by the Architect of the Capitol and any portion not in consonance with the Commission's policy will be omitted from the exhibit.

STUDENT INFORMATION AND RELEASE FORM

Each entrant must submit a Student Information and Release Form. The Student Information and Release Form is available through the office. In order to ensure proper spelling on awards, **ALL INFORMATION MUST BE TYPED IN THE FORM.**

The information requested on the first page of the form should be provided as thoroughly as possible. Students should list their mailing addresses, if they differ from their home addresses.

The form requires a description of the artwork, which should be detailed, clearly identifying the major elements of the work. For example, "self-portrait" or "a picture of two people" would be unacceptable, due to the large number of works that would fit that description. The following is an example of an acceptable description: "A painting of two people; the one on the left wears a green sweater and khaki pants; the one on the right wears a black shirt and a striped skirt. A dog sits at their feet."

The second page of the Student Information and Release Form contains a legal release and a certification that the artwork is original in design and execution. The student, an art teacher, and a parent or guardian must sign where appropriate. Entries without signed originality certifications and artwork releases may not be accepted.

A **TYPED** copy of the Student Information and Release Form, signed by the teacher, a parent or guardian, and the student, **must be** securely attached to the back of the artwork to certify the originality of the piece. Please retain a copy for your records.

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY DISPLAY WAIVER

Each entrant must submit a display waiver for the St. Joseph County Airport Authority. Artwork cannot be submitted to the competition unless this form is completed and submitted.

STUDENT CHECKLIST

Students are also required to fill out and submit a copy of the student checklist.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully selected.

Please indicate which side is up by marking arrows pointing towards the top on the back.

Labeling for all participants

Each submitted work must have a label with this information securely applied to the back:

Student Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Email Address

Title:

Medium:

Member's Name:

State and District:

Please use the largest label you have available. **This information should be typed.**