



Frequently Asked Questions

Who is eligible to participate in the Congressional Art Competition?

Students must be in high school (grades 9-12). High schools are generally not limited by kind—e.g., home-schooled students and charter and private school students are permitted to enter. Exceptions may be made for students in 7th and 8th grades who are on the same campus as a high school.

How can my office register to participate in the Art Competition?

Please have your staff send an email to art@coninst.org. In this e-mail, please include the Member's name and the contact information of both the Washington, DC and district office staff members who will serve as your points of contact regarding the Art Competition.

Where can I find the rules and regulations for the 2026 Congressional Art Competition?

Please review the 2026 student release form and rules and regulations for students and congressional offices on HouseNet. You may also download a copy of the rules and regulations and student release form [here](#).

Where can I find a logo for the 2026 Congressional Art Competition?

You may download multiple logos by following this link: [Art Competition Logos](#).

Can my district add our own rules to the Art Competition?

The rules linked to above apply to each Member of Congress sponsoring an art competition for his or her District. However, the Member and their staff may add supplemental rules at their discretion. For example, supplemental rules could:

- Specify a theme for the content of the artwork (e.g., “Landmarks and people of our District”).
- Further limit the acceptable media.
- Specify smaller dimensions for the artwork.
- Limit the number of entries to one piece of artwork per student or one piece of artwork per school.

What is the timeline our district should hold the Art Competition?

You are largely free to set your own timeline for when submissions are due to your office, when the artwork will be judged, and when the winner will be announced. You should set your deadlines so that you can submit the winner's name and contact information by May 1, 2026.

Who should judge the artwork?

Offices select the artwork in several ways: They invite panels of professional artists to judge; the Member of Congress chooses; the staff votes; members of the public vote via social media. Some use a combination of these

means. Many offices prefer having a panel of outside judges that select the artwork since it helps insulate the Member from criticism about the selected artwork.

How can my district advertise the Art Competition?

Most offices send notices to district schools to inform students about the CAC - in fact, notifying high school art teachers, principals and guidance counselors is one of the most effective ways to publicize the Competition.

Additionally, many offices post notices on their websites and social media channels. Some offices send notices directly to students, or send press releases to District media outlets, or buy advertisements. Please consult House Administration for details about using MRA funds to pay for publicizing the CAC.

What prizes will my winner get?

The artwork for the winning student from each District will be displayed in the Cannon Tunnel for 11 months. The Congressional Institute will also send each District winner an exhibition catalog featuring all the winning artworks. Southwest Airlines will offer each first-place Congressional Art Competition winner two round-trip tickets to attend the Celebration. The ticket holders must fly into Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI), Reagan National Airport (DCA), or Dulles International Airport (IAD).

Can my office provide additional prizes?

In addition to the prizes that are offered to each District, individual Districts may provide additional prizes for the winner and runners-up. **If your Member would like to solicit outside organizations for additional prizes, they must receive permission from the Ethics Committee. The MRA may not be used to purchase prizes.**

What other things can my office solicit?

Things offices might solicit for (not exhaustive list):

- Prizes for 2nd and 3rd place winners.
- A place to hold your official art event.
- Food for a reception.
- Travel accommodations for the winning artist.

Where can I find the Ethics form to solicit for the Art Competition?

The form to use for requesting permission is available on the Committee website under “Forms”:

<https://ethics.house.gov/forms/>

Forms can be emailed to the Committee on Ethics: EthicsCommittee@mail.house.gov.

Can I use the MRA to support the Art Competition?

A Member may use the MRA in a limited fashion to support officially sanctioned competitions like the Art Competition:

- Expenses related to framing the Congressional Art Competition winning artwork, when a Member determines in their discretion that hardship case is demonstrated, are reimbursable from the MRA.
- The MRA CANNOT be used to hold an event that is solely an exhibition of the art. However, the MRA can be used if the art exhibition is incorporated into an “official” event like a town hall or official business meeting.
 - Food and Beverage expenses that are otherwise compliant with Handbook regulations.
 - Rental of rooms, chairs, and audio systems that are otherwise compliant with Handbook regulations.

- The MRA CANNOT be used to purchase prizes. Per the Gifts and Donations section of the Members' Handbook, the MRA can be used to purchase certificates, presentation folders, and frames of a nominal value.
- Members may use their own personal funds to supplement the MRA.

Questions regarding the use of Member funds, advertising, the franking privilege, outside sponsorships, etc., can be directed to:

Committee on House Administration
202-225-8281 (Republican Offices)
202-225-2061 (Democratic Offices)

Communication Standards Commission
202-226-0647 (Republican Offices)
202-225-9337 (Democratic Offices)

When is the winner's information due to the Congressional Institute?

The overall winner's information is due to the Congressional Institute by May 1, 2026. The overall district-winning student's name, contact information, artwork information, and Southwest Airlines ticket request must be submitted to the Congressional Institute via our Congressional Art Competition Staff Portal for Congressional Offices.

Click the following link to access the Staff Portal: [Congressional Art Competition Staff Portal for Congressional Offices.](https://www.house.gov/representatives/competition/staff-portal)

How can we pay to mail the artwork to Washington, DC?

Shipping costs are reimbursable from your MRA. The artwork may not be mailed using your franking privileges.

When and where should we send the winning artwork?

The winner's artwork must be received in your DC office by **May 12, 2026**. You should ship the artwork to the home of a DC staffer or a FedEx or UPS pick-up location. **Do not ship the artwork directly to your Washington office. It will be held up in the mail screening process and might be damaged or delayed.**

Once it arrives, the DC staffer should personally bring the artwork to your DC office on or before May 6. Please be sure to open the artwork and inspect it for any damage. If the artwork or frame is damaged in transit, please repair it before submitting it to the Congressional Institute.

What should we do with the artwork once it arrives in DC?

Please remove the artwork from the shipping box and inspect it for any damages. We will collect the artwork on **May 19, 2026**, in House Office Building room **TBA**.

- Alabama-Michigan: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Minnesota-Wyoming: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Soon after we collect the artwork, we photograph the pieces for the House.gov web gallery and a slideshow shown at the Celebration. **If you do not have the artwork in Washington by Art Intake Day, the artwork might not be included in the web gallery or slideshow.**

What should we bring when we submit the artwork?

When you submit the artwork, it must have the Letter of Support with the Member's original signature and the second page of the student release form securely attached to the back. It must also have the signatures of 1.) the student, 2.) the art teacher, and 3.) a parent or guardian (if the student is under 18).

When will the 2025 artwork be removed from the Cannon Tunnel?

The artwork will be removed in early May. We will send more info as it becomes available.

When is the Congressional Art Competition Celebration?

The Celebration will take place on Thursday, June 25, 2026.

There will be two Celebrations, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Each winner and *one guest only* will be invited to the Celebration.

- Alabama-Michigan: 10:00 am-12:00 pm (Morning Celebration)
- Minnesota- Wyoming: 2:00 pm-4:00 pm (Afternoon Celebration)

When will invitations be emailed to the winner?

The Congressional Institute will begin emailing invitations to the Winners' Celebration on May 19, 2026. We will email the winner and CC the parent or guardian.

Who can attend the Congressional Art Competition Celebration?

Only the winner and one guest may attend the Celebration. Although the student may only bring one guest, any Member of Congress and their spouse can attend.

Can I volunteer to help at the Congressional Art Competition Celebration?

The Celebration requires several volunteers. Staffers who are interested in attending are encouraged to help. Please contact the Congressional Institute or the Co-Chair offices to volunteer.