

Imagine Mecklenburg Student Art Contest Official Rules

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN.

1. SPONSOR

The Imagine Mecklenburg Student Art Contest (the “Contest”) is sponsored by Mecklenburg County (the “Sponsor”) a local government entity with principal offices at 600 East Fourth Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202.

2. CONTEST OVERVIEW

The Contest is an art submission contest challenging local students, grades 9-12, to submit original artwork depicting messages of unity and joy. Participants are asked to answer a specific prompt, which will be announced and advertised each year, in a visual format.

Students may enter for a chance to win: 1) their winning submission artwork to be framed and displayed in the County Managers Office, 2) recognition at a Charlotte-Mecklenburg Youth Council reception and Board of County Commissioners meeting and 3) a “Mecklenburg County Prize Pack” including items from County-based organizations and County departments.

By participating in this Contest, each participant agrees to be bound by these Official Rules (the “Official Rules”) and to the decisions of the Sponsor which are final and binding on all matters related to the Contest.

Any submitted images and artwork may be used by the Sponsor to promote the contest and highlight the ideas and interests of youth across the community.

3. CONTEST TIMELINE

The Contest timeline will operate as described below:

The Contest Submission Period begins on a specific date in January, and ends on a specific date in March, both of which will be determined and advertised each year of the contest. (the “Submission Period”). To be eligible, submissions must be submitted during the Submission Period.

NOTE: No late submissions will be accepted. The Submission Period will be advertised each year as part of the Contest's promotional materials.

Eligible submissions will be reviewed by a Selection Committee, which will be seated with representatives from Mecklenburg County partner organizations. The Selection Committee will assess and choose finalist submissions in the beginning of March of each year. The Selection Committee alone will determine the appropriate amount of finalist submissions to move forward through the process. The selection committee's decision is final.

Depending on the amount of finalist submissions chosen by the Selection Committee, the Contest organizers will have the option of entering the Finalists' submissions into a public online voting poll on Sponsor web pages- where the public will select their top three (3) submissions to win the Contest. This poll will be hosted online during the month of March each year. The submissions with the most votes will be named the Contest winners (the "Winners"). There will not exceed three (3) Winners. If there are not enough finalist submissions to hold the online forum, the Selection Committee will select the top three (3) submissions.

The winner(s) will be privately notified in the beginning of April each year. The winner(s) will be publicly announced in May of each year on the Sponsor's social media channels.

4. ELIGIBILITY

The Contest is open only to individuals (the "Entrant") who are residents of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Eligible Entrants must be enrolled in a Charlotte- Mecklenburg High school, or equivalent public, private, or approved homeschool institution. Submissions on behalf of a group or agency are not permitted. The art submission must be attributed to one individual. Up to three (3) submissions per Entrant will be accepted.

Artwork must be "original" as defined by copyright law, and the Entrant must own all rights to the piece. The artwork must not have been previously published or entered into any other contest or competition. The Sponsor will deem ineligible any artwork that was entered in any previous contests. The artwork must comply with eligibility requirements.

Entry into the contest constitutes each Entrant's certification that the Entrant meets the eligibility requirements set forth in these Official Rules. The Sponsor reserves the right to verify and confirm each Entrant's compliance with the Contest eligibility requirements. An Entrant may be required to submit further information to assist in the Sponsor's verification of eligibility. Winning the Contest is contingent upon fulfilling all requirements set forth herein.

Submission Eligibility Guidelines:

- Each student may submit multiple pieces of artwork for judging (3 submissions maximum)
- Artwork must be completely original and either, paint, ink, pencil, paper collage, photo collage, graphic design, or original photography
 - Not accepted: art made with purchased kits; paint-by number pieces; photocopies or photographs of artwork; magazine or book illustrations, or computer-generated artwork.
- Art must be flat, two-dimensional artwork less than ¼ inch thick
- Maximum size is 36 in. x 36 in.
- **Any artwork suspected of plagiarism will be disqualified from competition**
- All submissions must be responsive to the prompt provided.
- Each submission must have an accompanying Artist Statement that explains each artwork's responsiveness to the prompt
- The Sponsor reserves the right to disqualify any submission that violates the guidelines identified in the [County's Social Media policy](#)
- All submissions must be submitted with the completed Contest Registration Form during the Submission Period.
- **All Registration Forms must be signed by a parent or guardian if the student participant is under 18 years of age.**

The submitted artwork must NOT:

- Contain material that violates or infringes another's rights, including, but not limited to, material that violates privacy, publicity, or intellectual property rights, or that constitutes copyright or trademark infringement, nor
- Depict elements that are vulgar, abusive, threatening, or otherwise violate Mecklenburg County's social media policy.

5. HOW TO ENTER

1. Take a high-quality photo of your artwork, ensuring it is high-resolution and at least 1,200 x 628 pixels.

2. Submit the photo to Outreach@MeckNC.gov along with the completed registration form that includes an artist statement specific to the submitted artwork by **the specified Submission Period due-date**.

- Each piece of artwork that is submitted must have its own specific completed registration form. No registration form can include multiple artwork submissions.

3. If your artwork is selected as a Winner, you will be asked to mail or deliver the original artwork, so the Sponsor is able to frame and display the work.

An Entrant must completely and accurately submit all required information to enter the Contest and must timely cooperate with all requests for additional information or documents from the Sponsor to verify eligibility and compliance with these Official Rules.

All registration forms must be completed in full and submitted during the Submission Period. The Sponsor's clock is the official timekeeping device for the Contest. The Sponsor is not responsible for late or unsuccessful attempts to enter. Incomplete or corrupted registration Forms will be disqualified. If for any reason an Entrant's entry is confirmed to have been erroneously deleted, lost, or otherwise destroyed or corrupted, through no error by the Entrant, such Entrant's sole remedy is another entry in the Contest to the extent the submission of an additional entry is deemed feasible by the Sponsor, and at their sole discretion. The Sponsor reserves the right to determine, at their sole discretion, which entries have satisfied the entry requirements. An Entrant may only submit one (1) entry. An eligible entrant must submit an entry in accordance with these Official Rules. No other method of submission will be accepted.

6. VOTING PERIOD

The Sponsor will determine the need for an online voting period. If this is deemed necessary, the Voting Period will be held in March of each year. An online voting form displaying all eligible submissions will be available throughout the Voting

Period. Voters will be able to select three options per vote. There are no restrictions on who is able to vote.

7. WINNER NOTIFICATION AND ANNOUNCEMENT

The Winner will be announced in May of each year, via the Sponsor's website and social media accounts. The Winner will be contacted by e-mail (via the e-mail address listed on the Registration Form) in April of each year and will be required to respond to the notification attempt within seven (7) business days. The Winner will be invited to attend an informal recognition ceremony at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center and the end of the year Youth Council meeting on a date and time agreed upon by the Entrant and Sponsor.

8. GRANT OF RIGHTS

Each Entrant hereby grants to the Sponsor a non-exclusive, irrevocable, and universal license to use, distribute or display the Artwork in any media now known or hereafter devised and for any purpose, including advertising or promotions, and to use the name and image of the Entrant in any media now known or hereafter devised and for any purpose, including advertising at the Sponsor's discretion.

9. DISQUALIFICATION

Persons found tampering with or abusing any aspect of this Contest, as solely determined by the Sponsor, will be disqualified. If disqualified for any violation of the Official Rules, the Sponsor reserves the right to terminate the Entrant's eligibility to participate in the Contest. In the event any portion of the Contest is compromised by virus, bugs, non-authorized human intervention or other causes beyond the control of the Sponsor, which, in the sole opinion of the Sponsor, corrupts, or impairs the administration, security, fairness or proper play of the Contest, the Sponsor reserves the right at their sole discretion to suspend or terminate the Contest.

10. TAX INFORMATION

All taxes and fees on prizes won are the sole responsibility of the winner.

THE SPONSOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO CHANGE ANY TERM OF THESE OFFICIAL RULES OR TO ADDRESS ANY ISSUE THAT ARISES WITH UPDATES OR AMENDMENTS TO THESE OFFICIAL RULES AT ANY TIME UP TO THE DATE THAT A WINNER IS SELECTED. ALL DECISIONS BY THE SPONSOR ARE FINAL AND BINDING.