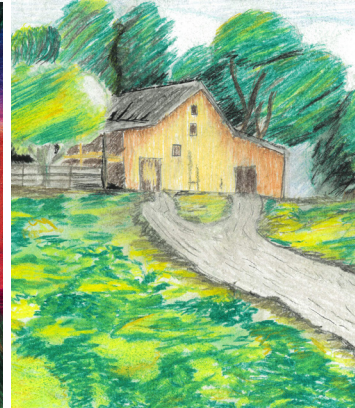


Cooperative STUDENT ART CONTEST



INDIANA
CONNECTION

IEC
INDIANA ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

ART CONTEST RULES

This is the complete set of rules for this year's Cooperative Student Art Contest. An overall winner and honorable mention winner will be chosen from each grade division.

WHO CAN ENTER

Indiana public, private, or home-schooled students in kindergarten through 12th grade during the 2025-26 school year.

- Students do not have to be consumers of a rural electric cooperative (REMC/REC).
- Artwork can be submitted by teachers, youth leaders or others as a group or class project, or by individual students or their parent(s) or guardian(s).
- Students may enter as often as they wish.

HOW THE CONTEST WILL BE JUDGED

Artwork will be judged on artistic merit, originality, creativity, and how well the assigned month is depicted. Artwork can be landscapes, portraits, still lifes, etc., as long as the monthly theme is somehow portrayed. A panel of judges will select winners in spring of 2026.

HOW THE CONTEST WORKS

Match the grade the student is in during the current (2025-26) school year to the corresponding month. Students should draw or paint a picture to illustrate their assigned month.

1st grade - January	5th grade - May	9th grade - September
2nd grade - February	6th grade - June	10th grade - October
3rd grade - March	7th grade - July	11th grade - November
4th grade - April	8th grade - August	12th grade - December

Kindergarten students can illustrate any subject, season, or event they choose.

RULES FOR ORIGINALITY

Students and teachers/parents/guardians are responsible for entering only **original works** of art totally produced by the participating students.

- Artwork **may not** be copied from other sources without substantial creative changes; this includes other paintings and photographs — unless the photo was composed and/or taken by the student or family member with the student's direction.
- Every element of the artwork (design, lines, marks, paint, color, shapes, shading, highlights, etc.) must be the work of the student whose name appears on the back of the artwork and be done by that student's hand.

- No tracing of other works is allowed, including sketches by teachers, parents, etc.
- Digital art is allowed for entry in the contest. No artwork created or altered with artificial intelligence (AI) will be judged for inclusion in the contest. Indiana Connection reserves right to exclude artwork from the contest deemed questionable.
- Artwork deemed to be too similar to a copied source or plagiarized will be disqualified. If plagiarism is discovered after winners are named, Indiana Connection reserves the right to request the award money be returned. The student also may be disqualified from future contests, and the artwork and student's name will be removed from our website gallery of past winners.

HOW ARTWORK SHOULD BE SUBMITTED

Physical artwork should be no larger than 11x14 inches and no smaller than 8x10 inches. (Paintings on canvas can be larger.) Drawings on white or light-colored paper will reproduce best. Do not use ruled notebook paper.

Digital artwork must be submitted as a high-resolution file suitable for print. Artwork should be at least 8 inches on the longest side at 300 DPI (dots per inch). Acceptable file formats include: JPG, PNG, or TIFF.

- The artwork can be most any medium as long as the art is relatively flat. Charcoal and pastel drawings should be sprayed with a fixative. Do not use glitter, sand, liquids, or other elements that can flake off or otherwise damage the works of other students. No photographic process, metallic or fluorescent paints may be used in the finished, submitted art entry.
- Submit the original artwork. Judges will not consider photocopies.
- Do not mount, mat or frame artwork.
- Do not fold or crease artwork.
- Please do not submit artwork from previous years.

HOW TO SUBMIT / IDENTIFY ARTWORK

Students may submit their artwork by **physical mail** or through **online digital upload**. Please follow the appropriate set of instructions based on your method of submission.

Please turn to page 2 for additional information.

COOPERATIVE STUDENT ART CONTEST

PHYSICALLY MAILED ENTRIES

If submitting by mail, all artwork must include identifying information listed below and a printed entry form.

Method A: Individual Entry from Home or Small Group

On the back of each entry, clearly include the student's first and last name, age, grade, school name, parent or guardian names, full home address with city and zip code, and a phone number with area code. Students should also title their artwork and provide a brief explanation if the connection to the assigned month is not immediately clear. In addition to the information on the back, each piece of artwork must be accompanied by its own completed entry form (Form A), which can be downloaded from [IndianaConnection.org](https://indianaconnection.org).

Method B: Classroom, Large Group, or School Submission

For larger classroom or school-based submissions — where including full personal information may not be practical due to volume or school policy — the back of each artwork should include the student's first and last name, grade, and a contact phone number. Entries should be sorted by grade level. Students are encouraged to include a title and a brief explanation if the monthly theme is not obvious. In addition to the information on the back, only one completed entry form (Form B) is required per group submission, as long as each individual piece is clearly labeled. Entry form B can be downloaded from [IndianaConnection.org](https://indianaconnection.org).

ONLINE DIGITAL SUBMISSION

Students can submit their artwork using an online entry form, where physical mailing of artwork is not required unless selected as a winner. Artwork can be submitted digitally using the online entry form at [IndianaConnection.org](https://indianaconnection.org).

When submitting digitally, students will be automatically prompted to complete and upload their entry form. There is no need to mail a physical copy of the artwork or entry form. For digital submissions, students must upload a high-resolution scan of their original artwork (at least 300 DPI) in JPG, PNG, or TIFF format. Photos of artwork will not be accepted. Scans must be clear, evenly lit, and free of shadows, glare, or distortion.

Please note: The required entry form, whether submitted by mail or included digitally, must be signed by the student-artist and a parent/guardian (for individual entries) or by the art instructor/classroom teacher (for group submissions). The signature confirms that the student has followed the contest's rules of originality and that the artwork is entirely original as defined by the guidelines.

PRIZES

A first place artist will be selected for each grade, K-12, and will receive \$100.

- Additional artists will be selected for honorable mention awards and will receive \$50.
- A "Best of Show" will be selected from among the first place winners the artist and will receive an additional \$100.

NOTIFICATION OF WINNERS

Only first place and honorable mention winners will be notified by phone. Results will be published in a 2026 issue of *Indiana Connection*, and at [IndianaConnection.org](https://indianaconnection.org).

PRESENTATION OF ARTWORKS/ARTISTS

The artworks and artists may be presented to the public in the following ways.

- The "Artist of the Year" will be featured in *Indiana Connection*, Indiana's electric co-op publication, after the winners are selected in the spring of 2026.
- Names of the winners and winning artwork may also be featured in *Indiana Connection*.
- Names of the winners and winning artwork may also be featured in news releases distributed to media outlets.
- Any artwork entered in the contest also may be selected for publications or materials printed by Indiana Electric Cooperatives to further publicize the art contest or displayed or presented with *Indiana Connection*'s discretion.

RIGHTS

All artwork and reproduction rights become the property of *Indiana Connection*. This means we can print your artwork in cooperative publications, website and promotional materials and distribute artwork to the media for promotional purposes. We will respect the integrity of the artwork and will not allow the outside commercial use of entered artwork without permission of the artist (and parent(s)/guardian(s)).

RETURNS

Indiana Connection may retain winning artwork for display at exhibitions and galleries, and other purposes indefinitely.

All other entries will not be returned unless requested and full prepaid postage and proper packaging is included when submitted. We will strive to have these submissions returned by late May 2026.

DEADLINE

Artwork must be submitted online or at the Carmel office of *Indiana Connection* by 3 p.m., Friday, Feb. 27, 2026. Mailing address: 11805 Pennsylvania Street, Carmel, Indiana 46032. (Please do not drop off artwork at your local electric cooperative office unless the local REMC/REC has announced it is accepting entries at its location or the local office has agreed to special arrangements.)

FOR MORE DETAILS

Please contact Karlee Gable, 317-408-7903 or youth@indianaec.org.

A full set of rules and instructions is also available at [IndianaConnection.org](https://indianaconnection.org).