

CITY OF FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS STUDENT ART COMPETITION

"What America Means to Me"

In Partnership with Midwest Salute to the Arts

Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary

OVERVIEW

The City of Fairview Heights, in partnership with Midwest Salute to the Arts, invites all students in grades K-8 who reside in Fairview Heights to participate in a special art competition celebrating America's 250th anniversary!

Theme: "What America Means to Me"

Students are encouraged to express through art what America means to them personally. This could include symbols, landscapes, people, values, freedoms, traditions, diversity, community, or any other aspect of American life that holds meaning.

This competition provides young artists with a meaningful opportunity to reflect on their relationship with their country while developing their creative skills. Winning artwork will be showcased at the **Midwest Salute to the Arts fair August 28th – 30th** at Moody Park, giving students valuable recognition and the chance to share their artistic voice with the broader Fairview Heights community.

ELIGIBILITY

This competition is open to students in grades K-8 who reside within the City of Fairview Heights, regardless of whether they attend public school, private school, or are homeschooled. To participate, students must live within Fairview Heights city limits, which will be verified through the address provided on the entry form. All students meeting these criteria are encouraged to participate and showcase their artistic talents in celebration of America's 250th anniversary.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

To ensure fair competition and appropriate recognition for all age groups, entries will be organized and judged in the following grade categories:

- **Category 1:** Kindergarten
- **Category 2:** 1st Grade
- **Category 3:** 2nd Grade
- **Category 4:** 3rd Grade
- **Category 5:** 4th Grade
- **Category 6:** 5th Grade
- **Category 7:** 6th Grade
- **Category 8:** 7th Grade
- **Category 9:** 8th Grade

One winner will be selected from each category based on the artwork that receives the most votes from the public. This structure ensures that students are competing with peers at similar developmental and artistic skill levels.

ARTWORK SPECIFICATIONS

Medium & Format

Students have creative freedom to express their vision of what America means to them using a variety of artistic mediums. We encourage students to choose the medium that best allows them to communicate their personal connection to America. Accepted mediums include:

- Drawing
- Painting
- Colored pencil
- Marker
- Crayon
- Collage
- Mixed media

All artwork must be created on a 8.5 x 11 paper or canvas and should not exceed 9 inches by 12 inches in size. This ensures all artwork can be properly displayed in the Rec Center lobby and at the *Midwest Salute to the Arts*. Additionally, all submissions must be flat, two-dimensional works. Three-dimensional sculptures or constructions cannot be accepted due to display limitations.

While frames are not necessary, artwork should be ready for display and in good condition. To facilitate hanging and presentation, please ensure that the artwork is sturdy and can be safely mounted on display boards.

Most importantly, each piece of artwork must be the original creation of the student. Traced images, copied artwork, or work that is not entirely the student's own will not be accepted into the competition. This requirement ensures fairness and celebrates the unique creative voice of each young artist.

Submission Requirements

Each student may submit **one** artwork entry to the competition. A parent or guardian must complete a permission form (attached) for each student who enters. On the back of the artwork, please clearly write the student's:

- First and last initial
- Grade
- Title of the artwork

Submission deadline: Last Day of School

Where to submit: Please submit art piece to your school, city staff will collect artwork on *the Last Friday of every month and the last day of the school year*. For homeschool students, drop-off will be located at the Rec Complex (9950 Bunkum Rd., Fairview Heights, IL 62208).

DISPLAY & VOTING

All submitted artwork will be displayed in the **Fairview Heights Rec Complex lobby** from June 1st through June 30th.

Nine winners will be selected - one from each grade. Winners will be determined by **majority vote** from the public during the voting period. In the event of a tie, City of Fairview Heights staff will serve as the deciding vote to determine the winner. Community members, families, and friends are encouraged to visit the display and vote for their favorite artwork in each category!

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

After voting concludes, winners will be announced and recognized for their outstanding artistic achievements.

Each category winner will receive the following recognition and opportunities:

- **Special recognition at the America 250 Celebration**
 - Date: Friday, June 27, 2026
 - Location: Fairview Heights City Hall
- **Feature display at Midwest Salute to the Arts Festival (Outdoors)**
 - Date: August 28-30, 2026
 - Location: Moody Park
- **Winner certificate and an award ribbon**

IMPORTANT DATES

Event	Date
Competition announced	March 1 st
Submission deadline	Last Day of School
Artwork display	June 1 st – 30 th
Public voting period	June 1 st – 23 rd
Winners announced	June 24 th
America 250 Celebration	June 27 th
Midwest Salute to the Arts	August 28-30 th
Artwork pickup	July 1 st – 10 th (Winners will pick up art at a later date)

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

For Students:

- Think about what makes you proud to be an American. Consider including symbols, places, people, or ideas that represent America to you
- Use bright colors and clear images so your artwork stands out
- Take your time and do your best work

For Parents/Teachers:

- Encourage creativity and personal expression
- Help students brainstorm ideas related to the theme
- Ensure entry form is completely filled out and attached
- Submit artwork by the deadline

RULES & GUIDELINES

1. All artwork must be the original creation of the student submitting the entry. Students should not copy, trace, or reproduce images from other sources. This competition celebrates each student's unique artistic vision and personal interpretation of what America means to them.
2. All artwork must be appropriate for public display and suitable for viewing by all ages. Submissions containing offensive, violent, or otherwise inappropriate imagery will not be accepted into the competition.
3. Each student may submit only **one** piece of artwork to the competition. Multiple entries from the same student will not be accepted.
4. Students must reside within the City of Fairview Heights to be eligible for this competition. Residency will be verified through the address provided on the entry form, and the City reserves the right to request additional verification if needed.
5. All artwork submissions must be accompanied by a signed parental consent form. Artwork submitted without proper parental authorization cannot be displayed or entered into the competition.
6. All artwork must be picked up by the designated pickup deadline of **July 10^{*}**. Artwork that remains unclaimed after **July 13** may be discarded. The City will make reasonable efforts to contact families regarding pickup, but ultimate responsibility for retrieval lies with the participant's family.
7. By submitting artwork to this competition, participants grant the City of Fairview Heights and Midwest Salute to the Arts permission to photograph the artwork and use these images for promotional purposes, including but not limited to publications, social media, press releases, and archival documentation of the America 250 celebration.
8. All accepted artwork will remain on display at the Fairview Heights Recreation Center lobby for the full duration of the exhibition period. Artwork cannot be removed early for any reason, as this would disrupt the exhibition and voting process.

***Winning artwork will be returned at a later date**

QUESTIONS?

For questions about the competition, please contact:

City of Fairview Heights

Ryan Jenkins

(618) 489-2063

ryan.jenkins@cofh.org

PARENTAL PERMISSION FORM (required)

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

School: _____ (or check if homeschooled: ☐)

Teacher/Parent Name: _____

Home Address: _____

(Must be within Fairview Heights city limits)

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

(Email is required for competition updates, voting reminders, and winner notifications)

CONSENT & RELEASE

I, the parent/legal guardian of the student named above, hereby grant permission for:

- ☐ My child to participate in the City of Fairview Heights Student Art Competition
- ☐ My child's artwork to be publicly displayed at the Fairview Heights Recreation Center and potentially at Midwest Salute to the Arts
- ☐ My child's artwork to be photographed for promotional materials, social media, publications, and archival purposes by the City and Midwest Salute to the Arts
- ☐ My child's first name, last initial and grade level to be displayed alongside their artwork
- ☐ My child's name to be announced if they are selected as a category winner

I understand and acknowledge:

- I assume all risk of loss or damage to the artwork and release the City of Fairview Heights and Midwest Salute to the Arts, its employees, agents, and volunteers from any and all claims, damages, or liability related to the artwork
- All artwork must be picked up by the specified pickup date or it may be discarded
- The voting results are final
- My child's artwork is their original creation

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Print Name: _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: _____ Category: ☐ K ☐ 1st ☐ 2nd ☐ 3rd – 4th ☐ 5th – 6th ☐ 7th – 8th

Entry Number: _____ Received By: _____

Residency Verified: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Thank you for participating in celebrating America's 250th anniversary!

City of Fairview Heights | Midwest Salute to the Arts | America 250 Celebration