

Dear Educators,

We are thrilled to officially announce the **2026 Congressional Art Competition** for Pennsylvania's 16th Congressional District!

This nationally recognized competition, sanctioned by the U.S. House of Representatives, provides high school students with the extraordinary opportunity to have their winning artwork displayed in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., from June 2026 through May 2027. Our district Art Show will be held on **April 24th**, and the **submission deadline for artwork and required entry forms is April 10th**. Entry forms should also be attached to the back of the art piece. Framing the art is optional. We welcome both individual and group participation and encourage every high school in PA-16 to be represented this year.

Students may:

- Submit artwork individually and attend the Art Show with their families, **or**
- Participate through their art department, with teachers submitting entries as a group and attending as a class.

To make participation as easy as possible, our office is happy to:

- Pick up student artwork directly from your school
- Provide and collect the required entry forms
- Coordinate submission logistics
- Answer any questions from your art department

In addition, I would love to schedule a brief **30-minute (or less) meeting with your administrative team** to share the five educational opportunities available to your students through **PA-16 Team Kelly**:

1. Congressional Art Competition
2. Congressional App Challenge
3. Military Service Academy Nominations
4. Congressional Award Program
5. Meeting & Speaking Opportunities with Congressman Kelly

Our goal is to ensure every student in PA-16 is aware of these opportunities and feels encouraged to participate.

I am available and happy to meet at your convenience. You may schedule directly by replying to this email or calling **724-282-2557**.

We are excited to see what your students create this year and look forward to working with you!

Warm regards,

Julie Swartfager

Director of Constituent Services

PA-16 Congressional District

Julie.Swartfager@mail.house.gov

724-282-2557



2026 Congressional Art Competition

Officially Sanctioned by the U.S. House of Representatives

Winning artwork to be displayed at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, DC, from June 2026 through May 2027

Enter your artwork for this unique opportunity!

Art Show April 24th

Details will be provided to participants and their families.

For More Information

<https://www.congressionalinstitute.org/congressional-art-competition/>

Deadline for submission:

April 10th

Contact

Julie Swartfager

Julie.Swartfager@mail.house.gov

724-282-2557



U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

MIKE KELLY

PROUDLY SERVING THE 16TH DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA





2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

General Information

The rules and regulations included here apply to the 2026 Congressional Art Competition generally. Members of Congress may have additional rules for their districts. Please ask your Member's office if any additional rules apply and how to enter.

Who May Enter

The competition is open to high school students (8th-12th grades). Members may choose to include 7th and 8th grade students in the art competition if schools in their districts house 7th through 12th grades on one campus. Teachers and/or students should verify their eligibility with their Member's office.

Students should enter the competition in the district where they reside, not where they attend school.

Artwork must be the creation of a single student. Students may not collaborate on an entry.

Size Restrictions

Artwork must be two-dimensional. Each framed artwork can be **no larger** than **26 inches high, 26 inches wide, 4 inches deep, and 15 pounds**. If your artwork is selected as the winning piece, it must arrive in Washington, DC, framed. **Even when framed, it must still measure no larger than the maximum dimensions.**

Acceptable Media

Work entered must be in the original medium (i.e., not a scanned reproduction of a painting, drawing, etc.).

Acceptable media are:

- Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.
- Drawings: colored pencil, pencil, ink, marker, pastels, charcoal (Charcoal and pastel must 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 copied from an existing photo or image (including a painting, graphic, or advertisement) created by someone other than the student violates competition rules and **will not be accepted**. For more information on copyrights, we recommend you visit: <https://www.artandwriting.org/awards/how-to-enter/copyright-plagiarism/>

Artwork will hang in Washington, DC, from June 2026 to May 2027. Do not submit artwork that will be needed for other purposes during that period.

Suitability Guidelines: House Office Building Commission Policy

Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission (the Commission). In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or a sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed. Each Member of Congress will be required to submit a Letter of Support confirming that the Member has determined that the winning artwork adheres to the Commission's policy. However, if another Member of Congress requests review of any artwork for compliance with the Commission's policy, the final decision regarding the artwork's suitability for display will be made by the Commission. While it is not the intent to

2026 Congressional Art Competition Student Information & Release Form

PLEASE TYPE. THIS INFORMATION IS USED FOR CERTIFICATES.
INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

MEMBER/DISTRICT INFORMATION	
MEMBER OF CONGRESS NAME:	STATE & DISTRICT:

STUDENT INFORMATION		
NAME:	GRADE:	
STREET ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT):		
STUDENT EMAIL (PERSONAL):	STUDENT PHONE (CELL):	
PARENT OR GUARDIAN NAME(S):		
PARENT PHONE:	PARENT EMAIL:	

SCHOOL		
SCHOOL NAME:		
STREET ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	ZIP:
STUDENT EMAIL (SCHOOL):	ART TEACHER NAME:	
ART TEACHER PHONE:	ART TEACHER EMAIL:	

ART COMPETITION ENTRY
TITLE OF ENTRY:
MEDIUM:
DESCRIPTION:
<p><i>Please include a detailed description of the artwork, clearly identifying the major elements of the piece.</i></p>
<p>For office use only: FRAMED DIMENSIONS: Height: _____ inches Width: _____ inches Depth: _____ inches See official guidelines for framed size and artwork weight restrictions.</p>