

CONTEST GUIDELINES

1. This contest is open to California residents in grades K-12. (Immediate family members of Coastal Commission staff are not eligible.) There are five grade categories for awards in both art and poetry: K-1, 2-3, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12. **Entries must have a California coastal or ocean theme** (for example, no tropical or arctic settings or species). Art does not need to depict specific places or species, but if it does, they must be California places and species. Meaning, sometimes a fish is just a "fish," but if it's a recognizable type of fish, make sure it's one that lives here! And while you can submit a poem about "the beach," please don't submit one about Waikiki Beach. Winners will be selected for art and poetry in each of the grade categories; winners will receive a \$100 gift certificate to an art supply store or bookstore. Each winner's teacher (named on the Entry Form) will receive a \$50 gift certificate for educational supplies from Acorn Naturalists. In addition, multiple honorable mentions may be selected.
2. **Poems and artwork must be student's original work.** If a poem is a reference to another existing poem (or song, or other work), that poem and poet should be named on the entry. Artists should include a short statement of a paragraph or less describing their inspiration for the artwork. If needed, poem or statement can be dictated to or translated by the teacher, parent, or other helper. (Please make a note if that's the case, and include the original text if translated.) Any art entry that has been traced from or is a digital alteration of an existing photo or image that was created by someone other than the student is a violation of the competition rules. AI-generated art submissions violate competition rules. If using an image created by someone else (of an animal, for example) as a model for an art entry, student's artwork must be significantly different to avoid plagiarism. No hands other than the student's own should be involved in the creation of artwork.
3. **Original artwork may not exceed 11 x 17 inches in size.** Acceptable art media are paint, pencil, markers, ink, crayon, chalk or pastel (fixed), collage, and digital art. Three-dimensional pieces, photography, or art that uses glitter are not eligible.
4. **All entries must be uploaded by 5:00pm California time on January 31.** Students may enter multiple pieces but must complete a separate entry form for each one. **A parent or guardian must approve and sign the Entry Form.** Winners will be contacted directly and announced at www.coastal.ca.gov/art-poetry by early April.
5. Be sure to keep the original artwork. **If artwork is a winner or honorable mention, student must mail the original artwork (unless artwork is a digital creation) to the Coastal Commission.** Artwork will be kept by the Coastal Commission for approximately one year as part of a traveling public exhibit.
6. **Please use the [online entry process](#) if possible.** If digital upload of entries causes a hardship (e.g., if you are a teacher who wants to submit your class's entries, or you don't have easy access to scan or photograph your entry), you can submit in one of the following two ways:
 - Entries and completed paper Entry Forms (found at www.coastal.ca.gov/art-poetry) can be carefully photographed and emailed to coast4u@coastal.ca.gov by 5:00pm on January 31. Be sure to keep the original artwork (see #5 above). **Note: a parent or guardian must approve and sign Entry Form.**
 - Entries can be mailed to the California Coastal Commission at 455 Market Street, Suite 228, San Francisco, CA 94501. Print out and complete a paper Entry Form (found at www.coastal.ca.gov/art-poetry), for each entry. Poems should be printed on the back of the completed Entry Form (preferred) or stapled to the Entry Form. **Note: a parent or guardian must approve and sign Entry Form.** Attach completed Entry Form and a short Artist's Statement about the inspiration for the artwork to the back of each piece of artwork with glue

or tape. Please do not fold art or use paperclips or staples. **Mailed entries must arrive at the Coastal Commission no later than February 1.** Multiple entries (whether from one student or from a group) can be sent in one package, but each entry must have its own entry form attached. The Coastal Commission is not responsible for entries that are late, damaged, or lost. **Entries will not be returned.** If you cannot print the entry form and need one sent to you, please send your mailing address to coast4u@coastal.ca.gov.

COASTAL ART & POETRY CONTEST ENTRY PROCESS

For art entries, scan your artwork at 300 dpi or take a photo of the art on a flat surface or wall with good lighting and no shadow, camera directly in front of it (not at an angle). For poetry entries, create a document with your poem or make a scan or photo of a hand-written poem. Do not include your name or other personal information on the poem.

With your parent or guardian, complete the online entry form at www.coastal.ca.gov/art-poetry where you will upload your art or poetry. If you are over 18, you can complete it yourself. The entry form will ask for the following information:

- Student name, age, and grade
- Title of art or poetry
- If entering art, the medium used (for example, watercolor paint...)
- If entering art, the size of the artwork (maximum size allowed is 11 inches x 17 inches)
- If entering art, a short artist's statement (a paragraph or less) explaining the inspiration for the artwork. Poems do not need to include a statement.
- School name and teacher's name, if applicable
- School address, phone number, and teacher's email, if applicable
- Name of parent or guardian
- Mailing address, phone number, and an email address for your parent or for you. (Please don't use a school email if it can't receive outside messages. Many schools block emails sent from our email system. We recommend you use a personal, non-school email that you regularly check.)

You will be asked whether you allow your city's name to be publicly shared if you are a winner or honorable mention.

Your parent or guardian will digitally sign on your behalf to agree to the following:

Pledge of Originality: The poem or artwork I am submitting to the Coastal Art and Poetry Contest is my child's original work. If my child's poem is a reference to an existing poem, they have named the poem and poet on their entry. They did not trace other artwork or photography, or digitally alter an existing photo or image that was created by someone else. Their art is not AI-generated. If they used an image created by someone else (a photo of an animal, for example) as a model for an art entry, their artwork is significantly different to avoid plagiarism. No hands other than my child's were involved in the creation of the artwork. If I am a student over the age of 18, I pledge this on my own behalf.

Your parent or guardian will agree to release the Coastal Commission from liability and grant non-exclusive rights to your contest entry, meaning that the Coastal Commission can use your art or poetry, but it is also still yours to use as you like.

Please use the online entry process if possible. If you are not able to do so, you may print out a paper entry form and mail it in with your art or poetry. See number 6 of the Guidelines for instructions on how to do that.