



2026 Youth Art Contest

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THE COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF NC EAST

The North Carolina Azalea Festival Youth Art Contest is an annual art contest showcasing the amazing artistic talents of the youth in our community and across our state. Public, private, and home-schooled students, grades K-12 are invited to submit their artwork to the contest. There is a K-2 Division (Elementary), a 3-5 Division (Elementary), a 6-8 Division (Middle), and a 9-12 Division (High School).

IN CELEBRATION OF AMERICA 250. THE 2026 THEME IS: COMMON GROUND

Every community has places and people that shape who we are. These might be places where we gather, learn, celebrate, or remember — places full of meaning, memory, or connection. Create a piece of art that tells a story about your community. Show us the people and events who have helped shape your life. Your artwork should reflect the idea of “common ground” — the shared spaces, stories, and experiences that connect us. Your art can be inspired by:

- A meaningful place in your neighborhood or town
- People who make your community special
- A tradition, memory, or local story that connects you to North Carolina and/or the North Carolina Azalea Festival

ARTWORK GUIDELINES

Must fit a standard frame size, no larger than 13”x19”. No raised artwork, digital artwork, or photography will be considered.

DEADLINE

The artwork entry deadline is January 27th, 2026.

Return art and entry form to your school's Art teacher or to the North Carolina Azalea Festival Office (5725 Oleander Drive, Suite B-7 Wilmington NC, 28403).

AWARDS

Winners will be notified by February 13th, 2026 and invited to an awards ceremony on March 3rd, 2026.

All winners and honorable mentions to receive:

- 2026 Official Artwork Print
- \$10 Jungle Rapids Arcade Card
- Surprise Item!

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will also receive:

- A Check for \$100, \$50, and \$25, respectively
- Invitation to Special Azalea Festival Events
- Tickets to a Local Attraction

GALLERY

Select entries will be displayed at the Youth Art and Writing Show at the Community Arts Center in the Historic Hannah Block USO Building's Community Gallery from the week of the Festival (April 8th) to May 3rd.

If out-of-town artwork is to be returned, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope or \$5 with the art entry.

For more information, contact event chair Stephanie Kraybill (910-620-7083 or stephanie@kraybill.org) or NCAF Office

North Carolina Azalea Festival - 5725 Oleander Drive, Unit B7 - Wilmington, NC 28403 - (910) 794-4650 - info@ncazaleafestival.org

ENTRY FORM BELOW - PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY AND ATTACH TO ARTWORK

Student Name:

Grade:

School/Organization:

Title AND Artist Statement (Required):

Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent/Guardian Phone:

Parent/Guardian Email:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

***Signature authorizes publication and display of child's name, photo, and artwork**

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