



Iowa State-Fish Art Contest

2016 Contest Rules & Guidelines



Entries must be postmarked no later than Thursday, March 31, 2016

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is partnering with the [Wildlife Forever® State-Fish Art® Contest](#) to host an *Iowa State-Fish Art Contest*. Students are encouraged to use their artistic skills to create an image of your favorite Iowa fish (see the eligible fish list below) in its natural habitat.

The first place artwork in each judging category will be submitted for [National Awards](#). First place winners at the state level will be honored at the annual [State-Fish Art Expo](#) this summer. Each student submitting an entry will receive a Certificate of Recognition.

Eligible State-fish:

- bluegill
- brook trout
- channel catfish
- largemouth bass
- longear sunfish
- muskellunge
- northern pike
- paddlefish
- walleye
- white bass

Eligibility

- Iowa K-12 public or accredited nonpublic school students.
- Each school can submit up to three entries per judging category.

Judging Categories

Group 1 – Kindergarten-Grade 3

Group 2 – Grades 4-6

Group 3 – Grades 7-9

Group 4 – Grades 10-12

Entry Requirements

Artwork

- should depict any of the eligible State-fish (see list above).
- should show the fish in its natural habitat.
- must be **original, hand-done** work and must not infringe upon any copyright laws - photographs and computer-generated artwork will not be accepted.
- should be **9"x12"** and not exceed 1/4 inch in total thickness.
- must be **HORIZONTAL**, without a mat, frame or border.
- should not have the artist's signature, initials or name on the front.
- mediums may include, *but are not limited to*, oils, scratch-board, pointillism, chalk, pastels, charcoal, colored pencils, acrylics, dry brush, watercolor, crosshatch, lead, collage, linoleum printing, tempera and crayon. **Please spray chalk and pastel entries with a fixative to eliminate scuffing and smudging.** A loose cover sheet may be laid over the face for protection during shipping.
- must include completed **2016 Entry Form** (attached to the back using a clear Glue Stick - NO STAPLES/TAPE/PAPER CLIPS).

The Words

"Words" are NOT required – BUT all submitted will be judged and the top three in each judging category will receive the [National "Fish Make You Smarter" Award](#). Writing tips are available on the [State-Fish Art Contest website](#).

- should not exceed **one side of one page** in length; not judged by length, but by what you say.
- should show the student's personal knowledge, connection and/or understanding of their chosen state fish, its habitat, behavior or conservation needs/issues.
- should be original...in the student's own words...and may be an essay, story, or poem or in any other creative form.
- may be handwritten or typed, be decorated or have illustrations and/or be creative in appearance. However, the words should be the focus.
- should include the student's name, grade and state **on the back**.
- submitted with the artwork but leave it separate – do not attach to the art.

Any entry not following the guidelines will unfortunately be disqualified from the competition.

To Enter

Entries must be mailed flat or rolled in a tube – no folding, please! Mail to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, c/o Shannon Hafner, 502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0034. Please mail all entries from the same school together in one envelope (or several, if needed). **Entries will not be returned.**

Entry Deadline

All entries must be postmarked by **March 31, 2016**. Late entries will not be considered.

Judging Criteria

The following criteria will be used to review and select the winning entries:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| • Portrayal of theme | • Visual appeal |
| • Creative expression | • Artistic merit |
| • Originality | |

A panel of independent jurors will judge entries and select three winners per judging category. The judging panel has not yet been chosen. Judges will be selected by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. All decisions of the panel are final.

Winner Notification

Judging will be completed by April 22, 2016. Submitting teacher of the winning entry will be notified via email by Friday, May 6.

If you have any questions about the Contest, contact Shannon Hafner at 515-725-8241 or by email shannon.hafner@dnr.iowa.gov.