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## Youth Art in the Park Wildflower Contest Overview & Rules

### What This Program is All About

The Youth Art in the Park Wildflower Contest is a competition that celebrates native wildflowers through the artistic creativity of our local young people. Goals of the program are to raise awareness of the natural diversity of plants in the Blue Ridge Mountains, to inspire outdoor stewardship, and promote community connections to nature and the national park.

The contest is part of Shenandoah National Park's annual Wildflower Weekend, a special event that focuses on the value and diversity of our native woodland wildflowers.

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### Contest Rules

- **Who May Enter:** All students in grades K through 12 living in the following counties: Albemarle, Augusta, Greene, Madison, Page, Rappahannock, Rockingham, Shenandoah, and Warren. Public, private, city, and home-schooled students in these counties may participate.
  - **Subject Matter:** All entries must be inspired by native spring wildflowers found in Shenandoah National Park, and *must be species included on the attached checklist*. Some plant photo references are available on the park website, [www.nps.gov/shen](http://www.nps.gov/shen), but these images must not be traced or copied. Pictures of these species from other sources may be used for reference.
  - **Medium:** All entries must be original artwork. These may be of any flat art medium such as oil, watercolor, acrylic, pencil, ink, charcoal, fabric, pastel, etc. Photographs and computer-enhanced or computer-generated artwork will not be accepted.
  - **Sizes:** All artwork must be 8" x 10" only.
  - **Wrapping:** Entries must not be framed or matted. Pastel, charcoal or other loose media must be sprayed with fixative before submission, or wrapped with shrink wrap or acetate.
  - **Number of Entries:** Each artist may only enter one piece.
  - Each artwork must have entry form attached by paper clip. Name of student should be on back of artwork, in case entry form becomes separated. Artists should not sign the front of their piece.
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### Information for Teachers and Supervising Adults

Please explain and discuss with artists the rules of this competition, along with the criteria upon which their artwork will be judged. Entries that do not follow contest rules are subject to disqualification. All participants must agree to the public display of their work in the Park, on the Park website, or other places for Park promotional purposes. All artwork will be returned to individuals, schools, or classes after the contest has concluded.

## How to Enter

- Prepare your art entry, following all contest rules. Fill out the entry form completely (PRINT clearly). Submit your artwork and entry form to: Shenandoah National Park, 3655 U.S. Hwy. 211 East, Luray, VA 22835, Attn: Youth Art Contest. Schools/classes may designate an adult who will collect and submit all entries to the Park.
- Check the Park's website for the submission due date: [www.nps.gov/shen/wildflower-weekend-youth-art-contest.htm](http://www.nps.gov/shen/wildflower-weekend-youth-art-contest.htm). Entries may be mailed or dropped off at park headquarters located at the above address, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Entries that are postmarked but not in the hands of Park staff by the deadline may be disqualified.

## Judging Criteria and Process

Art entries must be a creative rendering of a native spring wildflower or wildflowers, and must be a species from the attached checklist. Works will be judged on the basis of original design and artistic composition.

Judges will select the top entries from each grade level. One of the top entries will be selected as the "Best in Show."

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## Display of Winning Artwork

All winning contest artwork will be on public display at Byrd Visitor Center starting on Wildflower Weekend for a limited time, followed by display at Dickey Ridge Visitor Center. After display period (to be determined) all winning artwork will be returned to artists.

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## Awards

All contest participants will receive a ribbon for their work as conservation artists. Winning artists will receive additional awards. Prizes will be awarded to the top entries from each age category as well as the Best in Show. There may also be a Ranger's Choice award winner.

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## Entry Checklist:

Read contest overview and rules.

- \_\_\_ Prepare entry, following all contest rules.
- \_\_\_ Fill out entry form completely (PRINT clearly).
- \_\_\_ Have artist and parent/teacher sign contest entry form.
- \_\_\_ Check your contact phone numbers and email addresses for accuracy.
- \_\_\_ Paperclip the entry form to back of artwork. Do not mat the artwork.
- \_\_\_ Submit entries to Park address by due date listed on website.

If you have questions contact this program's coordinator, Mara Meisel, at (540) 999-3500, ext. 3282, or email at [mara\\_meisel@nps.gov](mailto:mara_meisel@nps.gov)