

2021 RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

General Information

The rules and regulations included here apply nationwide. Each Member of Congress may issue additional rules for his or her district. Please consult with your Member's office to verify whether any additional rules apply. The competition is open to high school students only in grades 10-12.

Artwork must be two-dimensional. The winning artwork heading to Washington DC must be framed and can be no larger than 28 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 4 inches deep.. Even when framed, it must still measure no larger than the above maximum dimensions. No framed piece should weigh more than 15 pounds.

Accepted mediums for the two-dimensional artwork are as follows: • Paintings: oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc. • Drawings: colored pencil, pencil, ink, marker, pastels, charcoal (It is recommended that charcoal and pastel drawings 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 that has been copied from an existing photo or image (including a painting, graphic, or advertisement) that was created by someone other than the student is a violation of the competition rules and will not be accepted.

Work entered must be in the original medium (that is, not a scanned reproduction of a painting or drawing).

The winning artwork will hang in the Capitol for the entire year of the exhibition and cannot be returned to the students earlier. Students should, therefore, submit artwork they will not need for other purposes.

Suitability Guidelines: As outlined in these guidelines, the final decision regarding the suitability of all artwork for the 2020 Congressional Art Competition exhibition in the Capitol will be made by a panel of qualified persons chaired by the Architect of the Capitol.

While it is not the intent to censor any artwork, we do wish to avoid artwork that is potentially inappropriate for display in this highly travelled area leading to the Capitol. Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission. In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or a sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed. It is necessary that all artwork be reviewed by the panel chaired by the Architect of the Capitol and any portion not in consonance with the Commission's policy will be omitted from the exhibit. If an entrant is unsure about whether a piece of artwork is acceptable, he or she should contact the staff of his or her Member of Congress; the congressional staff can speak with personnel who can determine whether the artwork would be accepted.

Student Information and Release Form

Each entrant must submit Information through the Cognito Form on the Montserrat website. The information requested on the first page of the form should be provided as thoroughly as possible. Students should include their mailing addresses, if they differ from their home addresses. Students should also include contact information that will be valid for several years.

The form requires a description of the artwork, which should be detailed, clearly identifying the major elements of the work. For example, “self-portrait” or “a picture of two people” would be unacceptable, since many artworks would fit those descriptions. The following is an example of a useful description: “A painting of two people; the person on the left wears a green sweater and khaki pants; the person on the right wears a black shirt and a striped skirt. A dog sits at their feet.”

By submitting to the exhibition, you certify that the work is your original in design and execution. The student and a parent or guardian must sign a release form for the winning piece to be displayed in Washington DC..

Framing Guidelines (Overall Winner)

Framing regulations apply only to the winning artwork that will be sent to Washington, DC. All winning artwork must be enhanced and protected by a sturdy frame. Frames must be made of wood or metal. No plastic “snap on” or metal frames that can easily come apart are to be used. All artwork, except paintings in oil or acrylic on canvas, must be protected by Plexiglas or glass. Plexiglas is preferred. If glass is used, special packing and breaks. Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully selected. The artwork will be hung from vertical wires. Two sturdy eye hooks or the equivalent must be attached at the top right and left sides of the back of the frame for hanging in order to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly. Wire between the hooks is not needed. Do not attach labels, ribbons, etc., to the front of the piece or underneath the glass or Plexiglas. Please indicate which side is up by marking arrows pointing towards the top on the back. Each work must have a label with this information shipping arrangements are encouraged to ensure that the work is not damaged if the glass securely applied to the back: Please use the largest label you have available. This information should be typed.