



2016 RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CONGRESSIONAL OFFICES

Important Dates

May 4, 2016

Overall District Winner's Information Due

Overall winner must be selected by this date and a copy of Student Information and Release Form must be submitted to the Congressional Institute. The Member must sign the second page of the Student Information and Release Form.

May 24, 2016

Framed Art Due in DC

More information on art submission will be provided at a later date. Please note the framing guidelines on the enclosed page. These guidelines apply only to your overall winner.

TBA June 2016

Congressional Art Competition Reception

More information will be sent to the District and DC staff who have registered for Congressional Art Competition updates.

Questions

If you have questions after reviewing the guidelines, please contact the Congressional Institute at 703-837-8812 or art@conginst.org.

General Information

The rules and regulations contained here apply nationwide. Each Member of Congress may institute additional rules for his or her district.

The competition is open to high school students only. Exceptions will be made for schools that have 7th through 12th grades on one campus. Each Member's office may choose whether or not to include 7th and 8th grades in the art competition if there are schools in its district that fit these criteria.

Each Member of Congress may designate only one first-place winner, whose artwork will hang in the Cannon Tunnel. Artwork will not be rotated in and out of the exhibit, so multiple first-place winners should not be named.

Official resources are to be used only to the extent authorized by the Committee on House Administration and the Committee on Ethics. Staff from the Congressional Institute and the offices of the Congressional Art Competition Co-Chairs are not qualified to advise on questions relating to use of the MRA, franking, working with outside groups, etc. For more information and official guidance, please contact the Committee on House Administration at 202-226-0647 and/or the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

In order to allow artwork to hang in the Cannon Tunnel to the U.S. Capitol, the following restrictions are enforced:

- All artwork must be framed according to the appropriate framing guidelines, listed below.
- Artwork must conform to these restrictions:
 - Artwork must be two dimensional
 - Each framed artwork can be **no larger** than 28 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, **including the frame**.
 - 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.)
 - Prints: lithographs, silk screen, block prints
 - Mixed Media: use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc.
 - Collages (must be two dimensional)
 - 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).
- Artwork is due in Washington by **May 24, 2016**. More information on submitting the artwork will be provided at a later date.

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 2016 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. Staff members may contact the AOC Curator's office for guidance on whether entries they receive would be acceptable.

Framing Guidelines (Overall Winner Only)

Framing guidelines apply only to the one 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" frames 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 shipping arrangements are encouraged to ensure that the work is not damaged if the glass breaks.

All works, **including frame**, should be **no larger** than 28 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 4 inches deep, to the outside of the frame, and 15 pounds in weight. Ensure that the framer knows the size and weight limit, and double-check the size before sending the entry to Washington, DC. **Due to wide participation of Member offices, framed works larger than the specified dimensions will be turned away.**

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 for hanging.

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.

As directed by the House Administration and Ethics Committees, each district winner is responsible for framing his or her own entry. If procuring a frame would be an undue financial burden the student and his or her family, please consult the House Administration Committee for guidance on the best way to assist them. No work will be framed by the Architect of the Capitol.

Submission Guidelines (Overall Winner Only)

As soon as you have chosen a winning artwork and/or by May 4, 2016, you should submit the winner's name and contact and art information to the Congressional Institute. Submitting the winner's information early will allow us to determine if more information is required from the student before you send the artwork to Washington and will allow us to mail an official invitation to the Congressional Art Competition reception in a timely fashion.

You may submit the winner's information one of two ways:

- Online: A Web form is available at <https://conginst.wufoo.com/forms/2016->

- o [congressional-art-competition/](#). Each office will receive an access code via email.
- o Email: The “Student Information and Release Form” may be emailed to art@conginst.org.

Please do not submit the winner’s information multiple times or multiple ways. If we are missing your winner’s information, we will contact you after May 4.

A **TYPED** copy of the second page of the Student Information and Release Form, signed by the teacher, the student, and a parent or guardian if the student is under 18, **must be** securely attached to the back of the artwork to certify the originality of the piece. Please retain a copy for your office.

Each work must have a large, **typed** label with this information securely applied to the back:

Student Name
Address
Phone Number
Email Address
Title
Medium
Member’s Name
State and District