



## America 250 Student Creative Arts Contest

In partnership with local schools and educators, Discovery Park of America invites students to participate in the America 250 Student Creative Arts Contest. This juried exhibition commemorates the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of American Independence and encourages young artists to explore the theme:

**“What Does the American Dream Mean to You?”**

Students are invited to reflect on the ideals of independence, opportunity and freedom through original visual expression. Selected works will be exhibited at Discovery Park during the official America 250 Celebration on Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4, 2026.

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Artists must live or study in the region: Obion, Weakley, Lake, Fulton County and be students enrolled in public, private, or home school in kindergarten up to the collegiate level.

Each student may submit one original piece of artwork.

Artwork must be created for this contest and completed during the contest timeline.

Artwork must be original and created solely by the student named. AI generated artwork is not permitted.

### **ARTWORK REQUIREMENTS:**

Two-dimensional artworks only.

The size of artwork should be one of these sizes: 9”x12”, 11”x17”, or 12”x18”.

Artwork should correlate to theme: “What Does the American Dream Mean to You?”.

Artwork should not be mounted or framed.

Please label the artwork with students first and last name on the BACK of the only.

Submissions must contain appropriate content: No profanity, hate speech, explicit imagery, copyrighted characters, political endorsements, or trade violations allowed.



#### Accepted Media Include:

- Paintings: oil, acrylic, watercolor, and similar mediums
- Drawings: colored pencil, graphite, ink, marker, pastel, charcoal
- Collages
- Mixed Media: (e.g., pencil, ink, watercolor)
- Photography
- Digital Artworks including: (please print one copy to submit for contest)
  - Digital Paintings: created using programs such as Adobe Photoshop, Corel Painter, or Procreate
  - Illustrations: vector or raster works produced with tools like Adobe Illustrator or Clip Studio Paint

#### Important Dates:

**Artwork drop off deadline:** Sunday, May 10, 2026

**Finalists Announced:** Friday, May 15, 2026

**Exhibit on Display:** Friday, July 3 – Thursday, July 9, 2026

**Award Ceremony:** Friday, July 3, 2026, at 2:00pm

**Artwork pickup:** Saturday, July 11 – Monday, July 20, 2026

#### SUBMISSION PROCESS:

To submit for contest: drop off artwork and a signed submission form at front desk counter during normal park hours. Any questions or concerns please contact the Education department at 731-599-1115 or [education@discoveryparkofamerica.com](mailto:education@discoveryparkofamerica.com). Discovery Park of America is committed to accessibility. Please contact the education department regarding accommodation.

The deadline for artwork submissions is **Sunday, May 10, 2026**.

Finalists will be announced on Friday, May 15, 2026, on Discovery Park of America's Facebook page.

Only Finalists will be displayed however, all artwork will remain at Discovery Park of America until after the exhibit. There will be an honorable mention section on display.

Artwork must be picked up between Saturday, July 11 – Monday, July 20. Parents, Teachers, or Students should pick up artwork at front desk during normal business hours.



## JUDGING PROCESS:

Artwork will be evaluated by a panel of local professional artists, educators, and museum representatives. Judging will be based on these criteria: creativity (30%), technical skill (30%), interpretation of theme (25%), and presentation (15%).

Winners will be announced during the Award Ceremony on **Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm** at Discovery Park of America. Students should make every effort to be at the ceremony, but attendance is not required to win a prize.

## PRIZES:

- K-2<sup>nd</sup>
  - 1<sup>st</sup> \$100 cash + \$25 gift card to Blick Art + One Year Family Membership
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50 gift card to Blick Art
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> \$25 gift card to Blick Art
- 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>
  - 1<sup>st</sup> \$100 cash + \$25 gift card to Blick Art + One Year Family Membership
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50 gift card to Blick Art
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> \$25 gift card to Blick Art
- 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>
  - 1<sup>st</sup> \$100 cash + \$50 gift card to Blick Art + One Year Family Membership
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50 gift card to Blick Art
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> \$25 gift card to Blick Art
- 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>
  - 1<sup>st</sup> \$100 cash + \$50 gift card to Blick Art + One Year Family Membership
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50 gift card to Blick Art
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> \$25 gift card to Blick Art
- College
  - 1<sup>st</sup> \$150 cash + \$150 gift card to Blick Art + One Year Family Membership
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> \$75 gift card to Blick Art
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> \$50 gift card to Blick Art
- All Grade Levels
  - **Best in Show: \$250 cash** + \$250 gift card to Blick Art + One Year Family Membership
- Art Teacher Recognition Award (for most student participation)
  - 1<sup>st</sup> \$100 gift card to Blick Art
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> \$50 gift card to Blick Art
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> \$25 gift card to Blick Art



## America 250 Art Contest Submission Form

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title of artwork \_\_\_\_\_

Medium \_\_\_\_\_

Description \_\_\_\_\_

Spring 2026 Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Name of School \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Student or Parents email \_\_\_\_\_

Art Teacher Name & email \_\_\_\_\_

(optional)

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Art Teacher's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(optional)

Artists retain copyright. Discovery Park of America may use submitted images for promotional and educational purposes with credit to the artist when possible. While reasonable care will be taken, Discovery Park of America is not responsible for loss, theft, or damage to artwork. Entry to contest gives permission for artwork and artist to be photographed and posted on social media.

Submission of entry into this contest constitutes acceptance of all rules and conditions.