

2027 Minnesota Fish Art Contest



Every year, *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer magazine (MCV)* partners with Wildlife Forever to host the Minnesota Fish Art Contest, which encourages K-12 students to learn about aquatic conservation and explore their creativity. Students are invited to show off their artistic skills by producing an original illustration featuring a fish of their choosing, accompanied by a creative writing piece about that species.

The Minnesota Fish Art Contest is part of a national contest led by conservation non-profit Wildlife Forever. First place winners from Minnesota advance to national judging, and their artwork is considered for specialty awards.



How to Enter

- Review the official rules and guidelines on the *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* website.
- Create your Fish Art Contest entry consisting of two parts:
 - Fish Illustration: An original illustration featuring a fish species of your choice. The illustration should be no larger than 8.5"x11", but it can be horizontal or vertical in orientation. If you use physical media, **please scan the final artwork and submit it digitally. Please note: The Minnesota Fish Art Contest only accepts digital submissions. We do not accept submissions by mail.**
 - Creative Writing (required for students in grades 4-12): A personally written essay or creative writing piece about your chosen fish species. This requirement is waived for K-3 students.
 - Length: No more than one side of one page, typed preferred.
 - Creative writing should show your knowledge of, connection to and/or understanding of your chosen fish.
 - Creative writing submissions may be decorated, have illustrations, or be creative in appearance, but the words should be the main focus of the piece.
- Submit your artwork by February 28, 2027.
- To learn more and enter the contest, visit tinyurl.com/FishArtContest



Prizes

Artwork is separated into five categories based on participant age: Kindergarten, 1st-3rd grade, 4th-6th grade, 7th-9th grade, and 10th-12th grade. Our judges select a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place artwork winner for each age group. They also select a 1st place creative writing winner for the 4th-12th grade categories. Winners will be announced in early May.

Prizes are as follows:

- 1st place: A fishing-themed prize package, a Minnesota state parks vehicle permit, a sketchbook, and a 1st place certificate.
- 2nd place: A Minnesota state parks vehicle permit, a sketchbook, and a 2nd place certificate.
- 3rd place: A sketchbook and a 3rd place certificate.

New this year:

- All participants will receive a subscription to *Minnesota Conservation Volunteer* magazine.
- Kindergarteners will be in their own category for judging.
- Digital art is now being accepted! AI-generated and AI-modified artwork is NOT allowed and is subject to immediate disqualification.