



U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
TOM COTTON

2014 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

RULES & REGULATIONS

***NOTICE:** The district competition mail-in deadline is 5:00 PM on Thursday, May 1, 2014. All qualifying entries must be received in the Hot Springs office or post-marked by this date. Please contact Lisa Harst at (501) 520-5892 or Lisa.Harst@mail.house.gov if you should have difficulty meeting this deadline.

MAIL ENTRIES TO:
Congressman Tom Cotton
ATTN: Lisa Harst
100 Reserve Street, Suite No. 307
Hot Springs, AR 71901

SECTION I. WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The competition is open to high school students only.
Students currently in 9th through 12th grades are welcome to participate.

SECTION II. WHAT ARE THE RULES?

- 1) Artwork *must* be **two-dimensional**
- 2) All qualifying entries must be **original** in concept, design, and execution.
- 3) Each entrant must submit a *Student Information and Release Form*. See SECTION III for details.
- 4) **A frame is not mandatory for the district portion of the competition; only the overall winner is required to frame his/her artwork.** If a student chooses to frame the artwork, each framed artwork can be no larger than **28" x 28" x 4"** (28 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 4 inches deep) **including the frame.**
- 5) Framed artwork shall not exceed the weight of **15 pounds**.
- 6) 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, silk screen, block prints
- **Mixed Media:** use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc.
- **Computer-generated art**
- **Photographs**

7) The district winner's 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.**

SECTION III. STUDENT INFORMATION AND RELEASE FORM

Each entrant must submit a *Student Information and Release Form*. The *Student Information and Release Form* was included with the letter, but another is available upon request. Please contact Lisa Harst at (501) 520-5892 or Lisa.Harst@mail.house.gov.

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

The information requested on the first page of the form should be provided as thoroughly as possible. Students should list their mailing addresses if they differ from their home addresses.

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, due to the large number of work that would fit that description. The following is an example of an acceptable description: "A painting of two people; the one on the left wears a green sweater and khaki pants; the one on the right wears a black shirt and a striped skirt. A dog sits at their feet."

The second page of the *Student Information and Release Form* contains a legal release and a certification that the artwork is original in design and execution. The student, an art teacher, and a parent or guardian must sign where appropriate. Entries without signed originality certifications and artwork releases may not be accepted.

SECTION IV. SUITABILITY GUIDELINES & THINGS TO AVOID

Entries 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), or that was created by someone other than the student is a violation of the competition rules and will **not** be accepted. Submitted artwork must be the original copy and may **not** be a scanned reproduction of a painting or drawing.

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.

As outlined in these guidelines, the final decision regarding the suitability of all artwork for the 2014 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.

SECTION V.

*FRAMING GUIDELINES (OVERALL WINNER ONLY)

Framing guidelines apply only to the ONE winning artwork that will be sent to Washington, DC. Even if your Member of Congress does not require a frame to enter the artwork in the district competition, **if your artwork is selected for display in the Congressional Art Competition exhibition, it must be delivered in a frame no larger than 28 by 28 inches in size.**

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 the framer is informed of 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.

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 securely applied to the back:

Please use the largest label you have available. This information should be typed.

1. STUDENT NAME
2. ADDRESS/ CITY/ STATE/ ZIP
3. PHONE NUMBER
4. TITLE OF ARTWORK
5. MEDIUM
6. MEMBER'S NAME
7. STATE AND DISTRICT