

CELEBRATE THE WEST 2026

Awards

ABOUT

Celebrate the West is the regional high school art competition of the Western Governors' Foundation (WGF). It is open to students whose Governors participate in the bipartisan Western Governors' Association (WGA). To enter the competition, students must be enrolled in grades 9-12 and create an original, two-dimensional piece of artwork inspired by their state or otherwise evocative of the American West. See the previous year's submissions and learn more about this year's competition on our [Celebrate the West website](#).

NO PURCHASE OR PAYMENT OF ANY KIND IS NECESSARY TO ENTER OR WIN THIS COMPETITION

How to apply

Visit <https://www.foundation.westgov.org/celebrate-the-west> and complete your application by April 24th, 2026.

Timeline

January 5, 2026	<i>Celebrate the West</i> 2026 application window opens
April 24, 2026	<i>Celebrate the West</i> 2026 application window closes
May 8, 2026	State winners announced
May 11, 2026	People's Choice poll opens
May 22, 2026	People's Choice poll closes
May 29, 2026	Announcement of Overall First Place, Second Place, Third Place, People's Choice Award, and Chairman's Award for Outstanding High School Art Educator
June, 2026	Overall winners and People's Choice displayed at WGA Annual Meeting

For more information on the competition and eligibility requirements, please visit: <https://www.foundation.westgov.org/celebrate-the-west> or contact Anna Caplan aacaplan@westgov.org

Artist Awards

Overall First Place - \$600
Overall Second Place - \$500
Overall Third Place - \$400
People's Choice - \$250
State Finalists - \$200

Students may receive additional opportunities for recognition through the Western Governors' Association, Governors' offices, and other project partners.

Celebrating Art Educators

The Foundation will award one participating art educator its **Chairman's Award for Outstanding Art Educator** and a prize of \$300.

Students may nominate art educators directly on their entry form or contact acaplan@westgov.org.

Contributions

If you are interested in supporting *Celebrate the West* with a financial contribution, please contact Sarah Olsen at solsen@westgov.org