

North Carolina Office of the State Auditor (OSA) Holiday Card Art Competition Guidelines

North Carolina K-12 students are invited to participate in the *North Carolina Office of the State Auditor (OSA) Holiday Card Competition*, a statewide competition that showcases young artists' talents. The winning piece will be displayed on OSA's holiday card. The top 20 entries will be displayed in OSA's Raleigh office. Before submitting, review the guidelines carefully to ensure your artwork meets eligibility and submission requirements.

Competition Rules:

Art Specifications

- Paintings - including oil, acrylics, and watercolor.
- Drawings - including pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, and markers (It is recommended that charcoal and pastel drawings be fixed.)
- Collages - must be two-dimensional.
- Prints - including lithographs, silkscreen, and block prints.
- Mixed Media - use of more than two mediums such as pencil, ink, watercolor, etc.
- Computer-generated art (does not include Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated art).
- Photography.

All entries must be original in concept, design, and execution and may not violate any U.S. copyright laws. Any entry copied from an existing photo or image (including a painting, graphic, or advertisement) created by someone (including AI) other than the student is a violation of the competition rules and will not be accepted.

All entries must be submitted by 11:59 PM on November 16, 2025. High-quality photo(s) or video(s) submissions via email are preferred.

- If submitting via mail is necessary, please contact Kelly Mann, 919-807-7739 or Kelly.mann@ncauditor.gov.

For students under the age of 18, each submission must be accompanied by a Release Form, signed by the student artist, parent or guardian and art teacher. For students over the age of 18, each submission must be accompanied by a Release Form, signed by the student artist and art teacher.

How to Submit

- Complete the Release Form
- Email your artwork to constituentservices@ncauditor.gov with the subject line: *Holiday Card Art Submission – [Student Name]*.
 - Include your full name, grade level, school name, and a short description of your artwork
 - Include a copy of your completed release form

Recognition

- **One** winning design will be featured on our holiday card to be sent to North Carolina community leaders and elected officials.

- The winner will be announced on **November 20, 2025**, and recognized in our newsletter and social media.
- The creators of the **top 20 designs** will be invited to send their physical art pieces to our Raleigh office for display throughout the holiday season.

Judging & Selection Criteria

All submissions will be evaluated by a panel of judges using the following criteria:

1. Theme Interpretation
 - How clearly and creatively does the artwork reflect North Carolina and holiday spirit?
 - Does the piece evoke seasonal traditions, landscapes, cultural elements, or local celebrations?
 - Is the theme integrated in a meaningful and original way?
2. Artistic Composition & Design
 - Effective use of space, balance, and visual flow.
 - Strong composition that guides the viewer's eye and supports the theme.
 - Thoughtful arrangement of elements such as color, shape, texture, and line.
3. Creativity & Originality
 - Unique perspective or concept that sets the piece apart.
 - Inventive use of materials or techniques.
 - Avoids clichés or overly literal interpretations.
4. Technical Skill & Workmanship
 - Clean execution and attention to detail.
 - Appropriate use of medium (e.g., paint, pencil, digital, mixed media).
 - Neat presentation (e.g., no smudges, crooked scans, or visible backgrounds).
5. Impact & Storytelling
 - Emotional resonance or narrative conveyed through the artwork.
 - Does the piece catch the eye and hold attention?
 - Does it tell a story or evoke a mood that aligns with the holiday season in North Carolina?

Disqualification Criteria

Submissions may be disqualified for:

- Low-resolution or poorly scanned images.
- Incomplete or missing submission information.
- Artwork that does not adhere to the theme.
- Plagiarism or use of copyrighted or AI material.