

Young Voices of Nature: Massachusetts Youth Environmental Art Contest

Information Overview:

Young Voices of Nature: Massachusetts Youth Environmental Art Contest is a student-led, fully online art exhibition and contest open to K–12 students across Massachusetts. Submissions will be judged by leaders and judges from Bow Seat, bringing an experienced and professional evaluation process to the contest.

Deadline: May 15

Submission Link: <https://forms.gle/RYomwh96zCxUKosf6>

Purpose:

The contest is designed to provide an accessible platform for students to express environmental perspectives through visual art, raise awareness about Massachusetts' ecosystems, and connect creative expression with environmental advocacy. It also builds a statewide online exhibition centered on youth voices and environmental storytelling.

Participants:

- K–12 students, divided into the following age groups:
 - Grades K–5
 - Grades 6–8
 - Grades 9–12
- Local artists and community members (online audience)
- Town residents and families
- Environmental professionals, serving as 3–5 virtual panelists from local or regional organizations

Themes

Nature supports the Massachusetts we know and love, but protecting it comes with real challenges. We invite you to explore the diverse ecosystems that sustain our home while addressing the environmental issues that threaten them. Through your art, reflect on your connection to Massachusetts' environment and consider: What aspect of nature in Massachusetts stands out to you, and why does it matter?

Please select one of the 3 Themes:

1. Human Footprint

This theme focuses on the impacts of human activity on Massachusetts' environment. Artists are encouraged to explore problems caused by people, such as littering, plastic pollution, deforestation, habitat destruction, urban development, or climate-related changes. Submissions should be rooted in Massachusetts-specific ecosystems, landscapes, or communities, revealing how human actions leave lasting effects on the land, water, and wildlife around us.

2. Native Landscapes

This theme celebrates the beauty and importance of Massachusetts' natural world. Artists may highlight native plants, forests, wetlands, coastlines, wildlife, or the communities connected to these ecosystems. Submissions may also take a stance on environmental challenges such as invasive species or endangered flora and fauna, emphasizing both the value of these native landscapes and the need to protect them.

3. Sustainable Futures

This theme looks toward hope, solutions, and environmental responsibility. Artists are invited to imagine ways to protect and restore Massachusetts' environment, whether by proposing solutions, appreciating community-based sustainability efforts, or illustrating actions people can take to care for local ecosystems. Topics may include clean energy, conservation, recycling, restoration, and stewardship of the natural world.

Submission Categories

- 2D Handcrafted Art (e.g., drawing, painting, collage)
- 3D Handcrafted Art (e.g., sculpture, mixed media, found materials)
- 2D Digital Art

All works will be featured in a virtual online gallery, with selected pieces reviewed by Bow Seat judges and optional recognition for outstanding submissions.

Requirements*

1. Select one theme
2. Include a brief description for each artwork (150 words or fewer)
3. Provide a title for your artwork
4. Must be a student in grades K–12 in Massachusetts
5. Submit by the deadline (May 15, 2026)
6. Demonstrate a passion for the environment

westford CAT

Young Voices of Nature:
**ENVIRONMENTAL
ART CONTEST**

Submission Deadline: May 15
Use your art to protect Massachusetts'
environment and spark change!

Contest Themes

- Human Footprint
- Native Landscapes
- Sustainable Futures

QR Code Submission
Or visit WestfordCAT's
Community Compass page!



Art Categories

- 2D Handcrafted Art
- 3D Handcrafted Art
- 2D Digital Art
- Photography

Participants
All K–12 students

Win awards and showcase your
art in a public gallery exhibition!

Inspire Change Through Art.
Questions? Email youngvoicesofnature@gmail.com

