

# NFED Art-Vocacy Community Contest

## Official Rules & Guidelines

*Submission Period: May 1 – June 30, 2025 | Winner Announcement: July 23, 2025*

**DRAFT — For Internal Review and Legal Approval. Do not distribute publicly until approved.**

**NO PURCHASE IS NECESSARY TO ENTER THIS CONTEST. CONTEST IS VOID WHERE PROHIBITED BY LAW, BUT OTHERWISE SUBJECT TO APPLICABLE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS. IF YOU DO NOT MEET ANY OF THESE REQUIREMENTS, OR ANY OTHER ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS IN THESE OFFICIAL RULES, YOU ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO WIN A PRIZE.**

## 1. Contest Overview

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The National Foundation for Ectodermal Dysplasia (NFED) Art-Vocacy Community Contest is an opportunity for members of the NFED community to share their lived experience with ectodermal dysplasias through creative expression. This contest is not about artistic training — it is about truth, feeling, and the voice behind the work. Selected pieces will be featured in NFED communications and displayed at the 2025 NFED Family Conference, with winning works included in a special community auction.

**Important:** Please read these Official Rules before entering this contest (the “Contest”). By participating in this Contest, you agree to be bound by these Official Rules and represent that you satisfy all of the eligibility requirements below.

## 2. Eligibility

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### 2.1 Who May Enter

This Contest is only open to:

- Individuals living with any ectodermal dysplasia condition
- Family members, caregivers, and supporters of individuals with an ectodermal dysplasia
- Youth creators under the age of 18, who will compete in a dedicated Youth Division

### 2.2 Membership Requirement

All entrants must be current NFED members at the time of submission. Membership is verified at the time entries are reviewed. If you are unsure of your membership status, contact NFED at [info@nfed.org](mailto:info@nfed.org) before submitting.

### 2.3 Who Is Excluded

The following individuals are not eligible to enter:

- Current NFED staff members directly involved in the contest administration

- Individuals whose entries were created with substantial assistance from NFED staff in a capacity beyond general guidance
- Independent contractors, vendors or consultants of NFED

## 2.4 Geographic Scope

The contest is open to NFED members in the United States of America. All submissions must be received in English or accompanied by an English translation.

## 3. Submission Categories

Entrants may submit a work (“Submission”) in any of the following categories. Each entrant may submit one piece per category.

Category	Accepted Formats	Technical Requirements
Photography	JPG, PNG, TIFF	Minimum 300 DPI; minimum 2000px on shortest side
Illustration / Painting	JPG, PNG, PDF	High-resolution digital scan or photograph of original
Written Word	PDF, DOCX	Maximum 1,500 words; 12pt readable font
Video	Shareable link (YouTube, Vimeo, Google Drive)	60–90 seconds; captioned or transcript provided
Mixed Media / Collage	JPG, PNG or video link	Multiple high-quality images + brief description of materials
Sculpture / 3D Work	JPG, PNG or video link	Minimum 3 photographs from different angles

### 3.1 Youth T-Shirt Design Category

Youth participants may also submit a design for the NFED Youth T-Shirt Contest. This may be submitted as a standalone entry or in addition to a regular category submission. Winning design will be produced as official NFED youth merchandise.

- Format: JPG or PNG, minimum 300 DPI
- Canvas: Use the provided printable template (available at the submission link)
- Design must fit within the print area specified in the template
- Text elements should be kept to a minimum and must be legible at small sizes

## 4. Age Groups & Divisions

All entries are organized into two divisions. Division is determined by the entrant’s age at the time of submission.

Division	Eligibility
Youth Division	Entrants under the age of 18 at time of submission
Adult Division	Entrants age 18 and older at time of submission

Judges will evaluate Youth Division and Adult Division entries separately. Winners will be selected in each category within each division where sufficient entries exist.

## 5. Submission Guidelines

### 5.1 How to Submit

By entering the Contest, you agree that your Submission conforms to the Guidelines below. NFED may choose to remove any Submission or disqualify you from the Contest if it believes that your Submission fails to comply with the Guidelines. All entries must be submitted through the official NFED Art-Vocacy submission form available at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc2DU66wuL\\_JRFsFHGrN\\_TpINzVhNLAVIxQONzrenCISo0pnQ/viewform?usp=header](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc2DU66wuL_JRFsFHGrN_TpINzVhNLAVIxQONzrenCISo0pnQ/viewform?usp=header). Email submissions will not be accepted.

### 5.2 Required Fields

Each Submission must include all of the following:

- Entrant's full legal name
- Entrant's age or date of birth (required to verify division placement)
- Entrant's email address and preferred contact method
- Relationship to the NFED community (e.g., individual with ED, parent, caregiver, supporter)
- Submission category
- Uploaded file or shareable link (per format requirements in Section 3)
- Artist Statement (2–3 sentences describing the work and what it means to you)
- Signed Affidavit of Eligibility and Liability/Publicity Release and/or Artwork License/Release (see Section 7)

### 5.3 Submission Guidelines

- Entrants may submit one (1) entry per category
- There is no limit to the number of categories a single entrant may enter
- Each entry must be submitted separately through the form
- All Submissions must be submitted by the individual entrant.
- Youth participants may submit one (1) additional entry for the T-Shirt Design Category

### 5.4 Original Work Only

- All submitted work must be the original creation of the entrant. Work that was created with AI generation tools, copied from another creator, or substantially derived from copyrighted material without permission is not eligible. By submitting, entrants certify that the work is their own.

- Your Submission must not (in NFED’s discretion): (i) violate any third-party rights, including copyrights, trademark rights, or rights of privacy and publicity; (ii) contain disparaging or defamatory statements; (iii) include threats to any person, place, business, or group; (iv) be obscene, offensive, or indecent; (v) contain material that promotes bigotry, racism, hatred or harm against any group or individual or promotes discrimination based on race, gender, religion, nationality, disability, sexual orientation or age; or (vi) contain unauthorized third-party trademarks or logos.
- You represent and warrant that: (i) the Submission does not violate any applicable law, rule or regulation; (ii) to the extent the Submission depicts any individual or features the voice or other qualities of any individual, you are the individual pictured, heard, or otherwise featured in the Submission, or, alternatively, that you have obtained written permission from each person appearing in the entry to grant the rights to NFED described in these Official Rules, and will make written copies of such permissions available to NFED upon request; (iii) and the Submission complies with all requirements of these Official Rules.

## 5.5 Submission Deadline

The Contest starts at 12:00:01 a.m. (CT) on May 1, 2026 and ends at 11:59:59 p.m. (CT) on June 30, 2026 (the “Submission Period”). All entries must be received during the Submission Period. Late submissions will not be accepted. NFED is not responsible for technical issues that prevent timely submission; entrants are encouraged to submit before the final deadline.

## 6. Judging Process

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### 6.1 Judging Panel

A panel of 3–5 judges selected by NFED will evaluate all eligible submissions. The panel will include NFED staff, board members, and community advisors. All judges must disclose any conflict of interest and will recuse themselves from evaluating submissions by immediate family members or individuals with whom they have a close personal relationship.

### 6.2 Evaluation Criteria

Entries will be evaluated on the following criteria, weighted equally:

- **Emotional Resonance:** Emotional Resonance
  - Does the work evoke feeling or a genuine human response?
- **Connection to Theme:** Connection to Theme
  - Does the piece meaningfully reflect the entrant’s experience with ectodermal dysplasias?
- **Creativity and Originality:** Creativity and Originality
  - Does the work show a distinctive perspective or creative voice?

Technical proficiency is not an evaluation criterion. Judges are instructed to evaluate all work on equal footing regardless of artistic training or production quality. The top scoring Submission will be deemed the potential winner. In the unlikely event of a tie, the winner will be determined by the Submission’s score in the following criteria: Connection to Theme. Odds of winning a prize depend on the number and quality of eligible entries received.

### 6.3 Pre-Screening

Prior to distribution to judges, all entries will be pre-screened by NFED staff to confirm eligibility and technical compliance. Entries that do not meet submission requirements may be disqualified or, at NFED's discretion, the entrant may be contacted to correct the issue before the judging period begins.

### 6.4 Judging Timeline

- Entries organized and pre-screened: July 1–2, 2025
- Judging window: July 3–9, 2025
- Final decisions locked: July 10, 2025

### 6.5 Discretion and Final Authority

All judging decisions are final and binding. NFED reserves the right to withhold an award in any category if insufficient entries are received or if submitted work does not meet community standards. Honorable mentions may be awarded at the judges' discretion.

To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, NFED may require potential winner to sign and return, within seven days of being notified, an Affidavit of Eligibility and Liability/Publicity Release and/or Artwork License/Release in order to claim his/her prize. If (i) the attempted notification is returned as undeliverable without a forwarding address; (ii) any required documents are not returned within seven days, such as the Affidavit of Eligibility and Liability/Publicity Release; or (iii) if potential winner is otherwise unable to accept the prize as stated, the prize will be forfeited and will be awarded to an alternate winner in accordance with the Judging Criteria. Only 1 alternate winners will be selected for each prize. If, by reason of a print or other error, more prizes are claimed than the number set forth in these Official Rules, the prize(s) will be awarded to the person with the highest scoring Submission in accordance with the above Judging Criteria from among all eligible claimants making purportedly valid claims to award the prize available.

POTENTIAL WINNER IS SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION BY NFED, WHOSE DECISIONS ARE FINAL AND BINDING IN ALL MATTERS RELATED TO THE CONTEST. AN ENTRANT IS NOT A PRIZE WINNER UNLESS AND UNTIL ENTRANT'S ELIGIBILITY HAS BEEN VERIFIED AND ENTRANT HAS BEEN NOTIFIED THAT VERIFICATION IS COMPLETE AND NO FURTHER ACTION IS NEEDED.

## 7. Usage Rights & Licensing

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### 7.1 Non-Exclusive License Grant

By submitting an entry, the entrant grants the National Foundation for Ectodermal Dysplasias (NFED) a non-exclusive, royalty-free, worldwide license to display, reproduce, distribute, and publish the submitted artwork in connection with NFED's mission-related activities. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Display at the NFED Family Conference and other NFED events
- Publication in NFED newsletters, e-newsletters, and annual reports
- Use on NFED's official website and social media channels

- Inclusion in NFED fundraising and donor communications
- Reproduction on NFED merchandise (with separate notice to the entrant if applicable)

## 7.2 Retention of Ownership

The entrant retains full copyright and ownership of the submitted work. The license granted to NFED does not transfer ownership. Entrants may continue to use, display, and publish their work independently.

## 7.3 Attribution

NFED will make reasonable efforts to credit the artist by name when displaying or publishing submitted works. Entrants who prefer to be credited under a pseudonym or anonymously must indicate this preference in the submission form. NFED cannot guarantee attribution in all instances (e.g., small printed materials with limited space).

## 7.4 Auction Works

Works selected for inclusion in the Family Conference auction will be handled with the following understanding:

- A physical or digital recreation, such as a high quality print, (as applicable) may be transferred to the auction buyer
- NFED retains the non-exclusive license to use reproductions of the work for mission-related purposes
- Proceeds from the auction support NFED's programs and mission
- Entrants will be notified in advance if their work is selected for auction and may opt out at that time

# 8. Youth Participants & Parental Consent

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## 8.1 Age Requirement and Parental Involvement

Entrants under the age of 18 must have a parent or legal guardian complete and sign the Youth Consent and Media Release form on their behalf. Submissions from youth entrants will not be processed or evaluated until a signed consent form has been received.

## 8.2 Consent Form Requirements

The Youth Consent and Media Release form must include all of the following:

- Name and age of the youth entrant
- Name, relationship, and contact information of the consenting parent or legal guardian
- Explicit consent to NFED's use of the youth's name and submitted artwork for mission-related purposes (per Section 7)
- Consent for NFED to display the youth's first name in connection with the artwork, unless anonymity is requested
- Parent/guardian signature and date

### 8.3 Submission Process for Youth Entries

Youth entries may be submitted by the youth participant directly or by a parent/guardian on their behalf. The consent form must be submitted together with the entry via the online submission form. Digital signatures are accepted.

### 8.4 Privacy Protections for Youth

NFED will not publish the full name, school, address, or any other personally identifying information of youth entrants without explicit consent from the parent or guardian. Only the first name (or a chosen name, at the family’s request) will be used publicly.

## 9. Prizes & Recognition

Award	Details
Category Winner (Adult Division)	NFED certificate of recognition; featured in NFED e-newsletter; work displayed and included in auction at Family Conference
Category Winner (Youth Division)	NFED certificate of recognition; voucher for one (1) future NFED Family Conference registration; special feature in NFED communications; work displayed at Family Conference
Youth T-Shirt Design Winner	Design produced as official NFED youth merchandise; certificate of recognition; complimentary NFED gear
Honorable Mention	NFED certificate of recognition; work displayed at Family Conference (at NFED’s discretion)
All Participants	Certificate of participation; work displayed in the Family Conference community gallery (July 23–25, 2025, St. Louis, MO)

Prize values are subject to change. All prizes are non-transferable and have no cash value equivalent unless otherwise stated. NFED reserves the right to substitute prizes of equal or greater value.

## 10. Disqualification

NFED reserves the right to disqualify any entry that:

- Is submitted by an ineligible entrant
- Does not meet technical submission requirements after a reasonable correction period
- Contains content that is defamatory, obscene, discriminatory, or otherwise inconsistent with NFED’s values and community standards
- Infringes on the intellectual property, privacy, or likeness rights of any third party
- Was created with AI generation tools
- Is submitted after the deadline
- Is found to have provided false information during the submission process

Disqualified entrants will be notified by email when possible. Disqualification decisions are final.

## 11. General Provisions

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### 11.1 General; Governing Law

Entrants agree to be bound by these Official Rules and by the decisions of NFED, which are final and binding in all respects. NFED's failure to enforce any term of these Official Rules will not constitute a waiver of that provision. Any provision of these Official Rules deemed unenforceable will be enforced to the extent permissible, and the remainder of these Official Rules will remain in effect. The use of the terms "include" or "including" in these Official Rules is illustrative and not limiting. This contest is governed by the laws of the State of Illinois, without regard to its conflict of law provisions. Any dispute arising from participation in this contest shall be resolved in the courts of Illinois.

### 11.2 Limitation of Liability

By entering the Contest, you release NFED and all Released Parties from any liability whatsoever, and waive any and all causes of action, related to any claims, costs, injuries, losses, or damages of any kind arising out of or in connection with the Contest or delivery, misdelivery, acceptance, possession, use of or inability to use any prize (including claims, costs, injuries, losses and damages related to rights of publicity or privacy, defamation or portrayal in a false light, whether intentional or unintentional), whether under a theory of contract, tort (including negligence), warranty or other theory.

TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, IN NO EVENT WILL NFED OR THE RELEASED PARTIES BE LIABLE FOR ANY SPECIAL, INDIRECT, INCIDENTAL, OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, INCLUDING LOSS OF USE, LOSS OF PROFITS OR LOSS OF DATA, WHETHER IN AN ACTION IN CONTRACT, TORT (INCLUDING, NEGLIGENCE) OR OTHERWISE, ARISING OUT OF OR IN ANY WAY CONNECTED TO YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE CONTEST OR USE OR INABILITY TO USE ANY EQUIPMENT PROVIDED FOR USE IN THE CONTEST OR ANY PRIZE, EVEN IF A RELEASED PARTY HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES.

TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, IN NO EVENT WILL THE AGGREGATE LIABILITY OF THE RELEASED PARTIES (JOINTLY) ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE CONTEST OR USE OF OR INABILITY TO USE ANY EQUIPMENT PROVIDED FOR USE IN THE CONTEST OR ANY PRIZE EXCEED \$10. THE LIMITATIONS SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION WILL NOT EXCLUDE OR LIMIT LIABILITY FOR PERSONAL INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE CAUSED BY PRODUCTS PURCHASED FROM NFED, OR FOR THE RELEASED PARTIES' GROSS NEGLIGENCE, INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT, OR FOR FRAUD.

### 11.3 Right to Cancel or Modify

NFED reserves the right to cancel, suspend, or modify the contest or these rules at any time, for any reason, with reasonable notice to participants. If the contest is cancelled before winners are announced, NFED will make reasonable efforts to notify participants. Entrants who violate these Official Rules, violate any law, rule or regulation in connection with participation in the Contest, tamper with the operation of the Contest or engage in any conduct that is detrimental or unfair to NFED, the Contest or any other entrant (as determined in NFED's discretion) are subject to disqualification from the Contest. NFED reserves the right to lock out persons whose eligibility is in question or who have been disqualified or are otherwise ineligible to enter the Contest. NFED reserves the right to disqualify any entries received that contain inappropriate or offensive content.

### 11.4 Obtaining NFED Membership

No purchase is necessary to enter or win. NFED membership is required (see Section 2.2). Membership may be obtained at no cost to qualifying individuals; contact [info@nfed.org](mailto:info@nfed.org) for details.

### 11.5 Publicity

By entering, adult participants (and parents/guardians of youth participants) consent to NFED’s use of the entrant’s name and submitted artwork for promotional purposes without additional compensation, subject to the terms of Section 7. As a condition of being awarded any prize, except where prohibited by law, winner may be required to execute a consent to the use of their name, hometown, aural and visual likeness and prize information for advertising, marketing, promotional, instructional, and educational purposes without further permission or compensation. By entering this Contest, you consent to being contacted by NFED for any purpose in connection with this Contest.

### 11.6 Contact

Questions about eligibility, submissions, or these rules should be directed to:

- Isabella Redding, Project Lead — [Isabella@nfed.org](mailto:Isabella@nfed.org)
- General inquiries — [info@nfed.org](mailto:info@nfed.org)

### 11.7 Privacy

See NFED’s Privacy Policy at <https://nfed.org/privacy-policy/>

### 11.8 Winner’s List; Rules Request

For a copy of the winner list, email NFED after July 23, 2026 and before July 23, 2027 at the email address [info@nfed.org](mailto:info@nfed.org) with the subject line “NFED Art-Vocacy Community Contest – Winner List”. To obtain a copy of these Official Rules, visit [www.nfed.org/artvocacy](http://www.nfed.org/artvocacy)

**APPROVAL SIGNATURES — This document must be signed before public release.**

<b>MarComm Plan Drafted by:</b>  Name: Isabella Redding Date: April 30, 2026	<b>Legal Review Approved by:</b>  Name: Greg Klimovitz Date: 5.1.26
<b>Project Lead:</b> Name: Isabella Redding Date: April 30, 2026	<b>Final Approval:</b> Name: Greg Klimovitz Date: 5.1.26