

Leadership + Service Awards

1. The .ORG Impact Awards

Description: International awards recognizing people and organizations using the internet and .ORG organizations to create meaningful social impact. Categories include Health & Healing, Quality Education for All, Diversity/Equity/Inclusion, Environmental Stewardship, Hunger & Poverty, Community Building, and **Rising Star**.

Best category for a young nonprofit founder: Rising Star, which recognizes an individual under age 30 who demonstrates leadership and drives positive change.

Details: Particularly strong for founders of established nonprofits with measurable impact.

Website: [.ORG Impact Awards](#)

2. Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes

Description: One of the strongest U.S./Canada youth service awards. Honors **25 young leaders ages 8–18** each year who have created significant positive change for people or the environment.

Award: Winners receive **\$10,000**, recognition, networking opportunities, and media exposure.

Key criteria: Applicant must have personally organized and led an extraordinary service project and demonstrate qualities such as compassion, courage, perseverance, generosity, and leadership.

Timing: Annual pre-application deadline March 15; full application April 15. The 2026 cycle is closed.

Website: [Gloria Barron Prize — Apply](#)

3. National Children & Young People Awards — The Biggest Impact Award

Description: Recognizes an individual or team whose initiative has created significant positive change in the lives of **vulnerable children and families**.

The judges look for someone working creatively and passionately to promote **advocacy, wellbeing, and improved outcomes for children and young people**. The award has both individual and team recognition.

Important: This is a UK-based awards program, so eligibility should be checked carefully before preparing a nomination.

Website: [National Children & Young People Awards — Award Categories](#)

4. CNN Heroes — Young Wonders

Description: This is probably what you mean by “**CNN Young Heroes.**” CNN calls the youth recognition **CNN Heroes Young Wonders**. It recognizes extraordinary young people who demonstrate that someone can make a meaningful difference at any age.

For example, the 2024 Young Wonders were twin nonprofit founders Brooke and Breanna Bennett, recognized for combating period poverty.

Details: Unlike a traditional scholarship, I could not find a current open public application form specifically for Young Wonders. It appears to operate more like an editorial/recognition selection connected with CNN Heroes.

Website/details: [CNN announcement explaining Young Wonders](#)

5. Pilot Pen G2 Overachievers Student Grant

Description: Historically, Pilot Pen's **G2 Overachievers Student Grant** recognized a student who went above and beyond to improve their community and awarded **\$15,000** toward education.

Important current-status note: The student-specific \$15,000 program appears to be a **legacy version**. Pilot's more recent program has centered on the broader **\$100,000 G2 Overachievers Grant**, rather than a separate student award.

Website: [Pilot Pen G2 Overachievers information](#)

6. The Diana Award

Description: Prestigious international recognition for young people creating sustained social or humanitarian change.

Eligibility: Ages **16–24**, with at least 12 months of sustained social-action work. Current award themes include Quality Education, Good Health & Wellbeing, Reduced Inequality, and Climate Action.

Nomination: No self-nominations. A professional adult must nominate the candidate, with two additional supporters and supporting evidence.

Recognition: Up to 200 young people globally are honored each year and receive placement on the Roll of Honour, a certificate, ceremony recognition, a young-leader network, and development opportunities.

2026: Nominations are closed; future nomination dates have not yet been announced.

Website: [The Diana Award Nomination Centre](#)

7. Daily Point of Light Award

Description: National volunteer recognition from Points of Light for individuals creating meaningful community impact through sustained service.

Eligibility: Volunteers of any age. Strong nominees demonstrate a genuine community need, measurable impact, leadership, consistency, and an innovative or distinctive approach.

Good feature: Nominations appear to be accepted on a rolling basis, rather than during one short annual window. Points of Light regularly recognizes teenage founders and nonprofit leaders.

Website / Nominate: [Daily Point of Light Award](#)

8. The Shyne Awards

Description: Recognizes outstanding young people for leadership, service, achievement, and positive impact.

Eligibility: Current nominations are for young leaders **ages 13–24 worldwide**.

Details: The organization has announced a move toward a biennial model. Its site currently references nominations for the next Shyne Awards.

Website: [The Shyne Awards](#)

9. Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County

Description: Local recognition for Fairfax County high-school students whose work promotes peace, resolves conflict, builds understanding, or otherwise contributes to peacemaking.

Selection: Each participating high school selects a junior, senior, or student group.

Award: In 2025–26, each recipient received **\$200 plus \$100 donated to a nonprofit of their choice**. Schools are generally contacted in October and make their selections by early December.

Website: [Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County](#)

10. AAUW Springfield–Annandale “Inclusion in Action” Student Inclusion Award

Description: Northern Virginia student award recognizing efforts to advance inclusion, equity, and belonging.

Details: The Springfield–Annandale branch of AAUW confirmed that the **2026 Inclusion in Action Student Inclusion Award** nomination period was active and distributed information to eligible local schools. Historically, the program centered on local high-school students demonstrating commitment to inclusion and DEI.

Website: [AAUW Springfield–Annandale](#)

11. L'Oréal Paris Women of Worth

Description: National recognition for women who lead charitable work and make extraordinary differences in their communities.

Nomination: Individuals can now **self-nominate**, and organizations can nominate an individual. Organizations themselves cannot receive the award.

2026: Nominations closed March 8, 2026.

Website: [L'Oréal Paris Women of Worth](#)

12. Multiplying Good / Jefferson Awards

Description: Long-running national service recognition associated with Multiplying Good, honoring individuals whose public service and community leadership create extraordinary impact.

Your older notes: The National Jefferson Awards required a nomination explaining the individual's service, impact, biography, and connection to Multiplying Good's mission.

Website: [Multiplying Good](#)

13. Prudential Emerging Visionaries

Description: Youth social-impact program historically recognizing young people ages roughly 14–18 who developed innovative solutions to societal or financial challenges.

Past awards: National honorees received **\$5,000**, coaching and recognition, with top honorees eligible for additional funding. Your older notes also recorded 25 national winners and a finalist-development experience.

Current status: I could not verify a new official U.S. 2026–27 application cycle, so I would keep this in the list but mark it “**check for reopening.**”

Website: [Prudential Emerging Visionaries](#)

14. Three Dot Dash — Global Teen Leaders

Description: We Are Family Foundation's international program recognizing teen social entrepreneurs and activists.

2026 focus: Ages **13–19** working on an environmental or climate-related initiative. Selected Global Teen Leaders receive a one-week summit experience in London, a year of virtual learning with peers, and an expert mentor.

Status: 2026 applications are closed.

Website: [Three Dot Dash / Current WAFF Opportunities](#)

15. Ashoka Young Changemakers

Description: A global network for unusually strong young social entrepreneurs who have already started and led initiatives creating measurable social benefit.

Typical profile: Young people around **12–18** who have launched a project, built a team, created social benefit, and can influence their peers to become changemakers.

Note: Application/selection cycles differ by country and are not always continuously open.

Website: [Ashoka Young Changemakers](#)

SCHOLARSHIPS + ACADEMIC/LEADERSHIP AWARDS

16. Coca-Cola Scholars Program

Description: Highly selective national scholarship recognizing high-school seniors for **leadership, service, academics, and meaningful community impact**.

Award: 150 students each receive \$20,000.

2027 application: OPEN NOW for students graduating in 2026–27. Deadline is **September 30, 2026 at 5 PM ET**. Minimum 3.0 GPA and other citizenship/residency requirements apply.

Website / Apply: [Coca-Cola Scholars application](#)

17. National Merit Scholarship Program — Semifinalist / Finalist

Description: National academic recognition based primarily on performance in the PSAT/NMSQT and subsequent scholarship competition.

Approximately **16,000 students become Semifinalists**, representing the highest-scoring entrants in their respective states. They can then apply to become Finalists and compete for National Merit scholarships.

2027 class: Public announcement of Semifinalists is scheduled for **September 9, 2026**.

Website: [National Merit Scholarship Corporation](#)

18. NSHSS James W. Lewis Global Leader Scholarship

Description: Scholarship for young leaders demonstrating community engagement, youth leadership, global perspective, inclusion, educational opportunity, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

2026 award: Three \$5,000 scholarships.

Eligibility: NSHSS members graduating in 2026–2029.

Application: 500–800 word essay, résumé, transcript, educator recommendation, headshot, and optional leadership media.

Status: 2026 deadline was August 25.

Website: [James W. Lewis Global Leader Scholarship](#)

19. Bryan Cameron Impact Scholarship

Description: One of the largest merit/service scholarships for exceptional student leaders.

Award: Approximately **15 scholars annually receive a four-year, full-tuition scholarship** to any U.S.-based college or university.

Selection: Exceptional academics, leadership, extracurricular involvement, community service, and demonstrated desire to make a positive impact.

Current status: Class of 2027 applications are closed. Applications for the Class of 2028 open February 1, 2027.

Website: [Cameron Impact Scholarship](#)

20. GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship

Description: National scholarship for high-school seniors demonstrating **leadership, drive, integrity, and citizenship**.

Award: Up to \$40,000.

Eligibility: U.S. high-school seniors, minimum 3.0 GPA, planning full-time study at an accredited four-year U.S. institution.

Status: 2026 competition is closed; the foundation offers notification signup for the next cycle.

Website: [GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship](#)

21. Equitable Excellence Scholarship

Description: National scholarship for high-school seniors who demonstrate ambition, resilience, leadership, and a commitment to being a force for good in their communities.

Current structure: Equitable describes the scholarship as supporting students whose education will help them continue creating positive impact. Current program information indicates renewable scholarship support potentially totaling **\$20,000**.

2027: Scholarship America currently lists Equitable Excellence among scholarships **opening in November 2026**.

Website: [Equitable Excellence Scholarship](#)

22. ACF Visionary Scholarship

Description: Merit scholarship available to U.S. high-school students in grades 9–12.

Application: Transcript plus a roughly 500-word essay on “**Why College Is Important to Me.**” No SAT/ACT requirement.

Award: Current awards generally range from **\$1,000–\$2,500**, with several recipients per application period.

Website: [American College Foundation Visionary Scholarship](#)

23. Dr. Frank G. Jenkins Scholarship

Description: Northern Virginia scholarship associated with the Northern Virginia Kappa Achievement Foundation for college-bound high-school seniors.

Typical criteria: Strong academic record, leadership/service, recommendations, essay, transcript, and finalist interview. Recent listings have described a minimum 3.5 GPA and a **\$1,000 award**.

Website/details: Check the annual Northern Virginia Kappa Achievement Foundation scholarship packet, since requirements can change each year.

24. Harry F. Byrd Jr. Leadership Award

Description: Virginia student leadership award historically recognizing outstanding high-school seniors for **character, leadership, devotion to duty, academic achievement, and pursuit of excellence**.

Details: Traditionally schools nominate students rather than students applying independently.

Current status: I could not find a reliable current public application page for the 2026–27 cycle, so this is best checked through the school counseling office.

25. Carson Scholars Fund Scholarship

Description: Recognizes academically strong students with a substantial commitment to community service.

Eligibility: Students in **grades 4–11**, minimum **3.75 GPA**, and students must be nominated by their school.

Award: **\$1,000 college scholarship** plus recognition as a Carson Scholar.

Website: [Carson Scholars Fund](#)

26. Rho Psi Leadership and Service Scholarship

Description: Scholarship historically recognizing students for academic performance, leadership, service, and community involvement.

Status: Your original records point to Rho Psi's Leadership & Service Scholarship, but I could not verify a current 2026–27 competition.

Website: Rho Psi scholarship page from your records

27. Robert Sheppard Student Leadership Scholarship — NSHSS

Description: Historically recognized strong student leadership and volunteer service.

Past award: \$2,500 first place and \$1,000 for top finalists. Application included a 500-word statement about a meaningful volunteer project, service activities, transcript, résumé, recommendation, and supporting materials.

Status: Archived/discontinued. NSHSS's own page says it did not reopen after 2020.

Website: [Archived NSHSS scholarship page](#)

28. Build A Better Future Scholarship — Honors Graduation

Description: Project-based scholarship for graduating high-school seniors who identify a problem and actually implement a project that improves their community.

Award: Historically **five \$10,000 scholarships** each year.

This was called “**Build A Better Tomorrow**” in your old notes, but Honors Graduation now refers to it as the **Build A Better Future Scholarship**.

Website: [Honors Graduation scholarships](#)

FELLOWSHIPS / PROGRAMS / COMPETITIONS

29. Bank of America Student Leaders

Description: Leadership-development program connecting community-minded young people with paid nonprofit work and a national leadership experience.

Important: The eligibility structure has **changed significantly** from the older high-school program in your files, so old application notes should not be reused without checking the current year's rules.

Website: [Bank of America Student Leaders](#)

Your original notes describe the older high-school version and its school recommendation requirement.

30. Wharton Leadership in the Business World (LBW)

Description: Highly selective **three-week summer business program for rising high-school seniors** through Wharton Global Youth.

Participants study business fundamentals, teamwork, leadership, entrepreneurship, and strategy; hear from Wharton professors and business leaders; and participate in simulations and team projects.

Note: This is a selective academic program, **not an award or scholarship by itself**.

Website: [Wharton Leadership in the Business World](#)

Your earlier notes also describe the faculty lectures, business simulations, case competitions, and industry research components.

31. Millennium Fellowship

Description: Semester-long leadership-development program run by the **United Nations Academic Impact and Millennium Campus Network** for undergraduate students leading projects connected to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Good for: College students already running a social-impact organization/project and wanting international recognition, structured leadership training, and a peer network.

Website: [Millennium Fellowship](#)

32. ILF Civic Fellowship

Description: Public-service fellowship from the International Leadership Foundation for undergraduate college students.

Program: 8–10 week internship with federal agencies, Congress, nonprofits or think tanks, plus mentorship, speaker events, leadership training, and professional development.

Eligibility: U.S. citizen, full-time undergraduate, minimum 3.0 GPA, and involvement in public/community service.

2026 stipend: \$2,500 upon successful completion under the stated program conditions.

Website: [ILF Civic Fellowship](#)

33. One Young World — Leading Scholarship

Description: One Young World's flagship scholarship for exceptional young leaders creating significant social impact.

Typical eligibility: Ages roughly 18–35 with proven leadership and measurable positive change.

2026 benefits: Full delegate access to the One Young World Summit in Cape Town, meals, Global Leadership Programme, Action Accelerator, and membership in the global Ambassador community. Accommodation and transportation depend on the particular scholarship arrangement.

Current official page lists: October 31, 2026 application deadline.

Website / Apply: [One Young World Leading Scholarship 2026](#)

34. United States Senate Youth Program — USSYP

Description: Prestigious national program for high-school juniors and seniors with demonstrated leadership and interest in government/public service.

Students are selected to represent their states, participate in **Washington Week**, meet national leaders, and receive a college scholarship.

Website: [United States Senate Youth Program](#)

35. Taco Bell Ambition Accelerator

Description: Social-impact accelerator created by the Taco Bell Foundation with Ashoka to support young people developing ideas that improve their communities.

Past structure: Applicants roughly ages **16–26**; selected participants received mentorship, community, and grants, with some previous finalists receiving funding of up to approximately **\$25,000**.

Status: Keep it on the watch list, but check for the next announced application cycle.

36. Together Towards Tomorrow Challenge — Ashoka / HSBC

Description: Global social-impact challenge seeking initiatives that bring generations together and empower young people as changemakers.

Past program: More than 450 applications were received and 12 initiatives were selected.

Status: The challenge I found was a **2024 program and is now closed**. Keep it as an archived opportunity in case Ashoka/HSBC launches a successor.

37. DECA / FIDM Entrepreneur of Tomorrow Challenge

Description: Entrepreneurship competition for DECA students. Participants developed a proposal for a new product/business concept and presented it through a short pitch/video.

Past awards: Cash prizes and national recognition were awarded to top competitors.

Status: The most recent official DECA material I could verify was from **2023**, so I would mark this **archived / check whether a replacement competition exists** rather than plan around it.

38. The Outstanding Leadership Awards

Description: International leadership recognition that historically asked nominees to demonstrate positive community/business impact, kindness, courage, inclusivity, support for others, and strong leadership.

Your prior application notes required **two references** and detailed responses about impact, inclusiveness, leadership, courage, and kindness.

Status: I could not verify an active version of the original award site for 2026, so I would mark this **archived/uncertain**.

Writing + Art Awards

1. National YoungArts Competition — Writing + Visual Arts

Type: NATIONAL / Highly prestigious

Description: One of the major national arts competitions for young artists. YoungArts recognizes students in writing, visual art, photography, film, design, dance, music, theater and other disciplines.

Eligibility: Generally ages **15–18 or grades 10–12** as of December 1, 2026, with U.S. citizenship/permanent residency or ability to receive taxable income in the U.S.

Writing categories: Fiction, nonfiction, poetry, play/script, spoken word and other forms.

Nonfiction requirements: **2 separate pieces**, maximum **15 pages total**. Memoir, autobiography and creative essays are accepted; academic/research papers are not.

Visual Arts requirements: Portfolio of **8–10 works created within the past two years**, represented through 10 images. The portfolio should show a cohesive idea, theme or technique.

Awards: All winners receive **\$250–\$10,000**. Winners with Distinction can attend National YoungArts Week and receive awards up to \$10,000, plus long-term access to professional development, grants and the YoungArts alumni network.

2027 DEADLINE: October 6, 2026 at 8 PM ET — OPEN NOW.

[YoungArts — Apply](#)

2. Bennington College Young Writers Awards

Type: INTERNATIONAL / High-school writing

Description: Prestigious international high-school writing competition run by Bennington College. Open to grades **9–12 worldwide**.

Categories:

- Fiction — one short story or standalone excerpt
- Nonfiction — personal/creative nonfiction essay or excerpt

- Poetry — 1–3 poems

Length: Maximum **1,500 words** total.

Awards:

- 1st place: **\$2,000**
- 2nd place: **\$1,000**
- 3rd place: **\$500**
- Distinguished writers: **\$250**

There are also unusually large **Bennington scholarships**: first-place winners who enroll receive full tuition for four years; Distinguished recipients receive half tuition; finalists receive \$25,000 per year. Around **5,000 students** entered the previous cycle.

2026–27: Open September 1 – **November 1, 2026 — OPEN NOW.**

Important: Grade 12 applicants must first submit a Common App or Coalition App to Bennington; grades 9–11 can enter directly.

[Bennington Young Writers Awards](#)

3. Bennington College Young Artists Awards

Type: INTERNATIONAL / Visual art

Description: New addition to Bennington's Young Creators Awards. Recognizes high-school artists in grades 9–12 worldwide.

Categories:

- 2-Dimensional Art
- 3-Dimensional Art
- Digital Media

Submit **one original artwork**. AI may not be used to create the entry. A teacher or mentor must approve/sponsor the submission.

Awards: Cash prizes up to **\$2,000**, plus recognition/showcase opportunities and potentially very large Bennington scholarships.

2026–27 DEADLINE: November 1, 2026 — **OPEN NOW.**

4. Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

Type: REGIONAL → NATIONAL / Very prestigious

Description: One of the best-known U.S. awards for teenage writers and artists. Work is first judged regionally for **Gold Keys, Silver Keys and Honorable Mentions**. Regional Gold Keys advance to national judging for Gold and Silver Medals.

Judges evaluate work based on **originality, skill, and emergence of a personal voice or vision**.

Writing

Categories include:

- Personal Essay & Memoir
- Flash Fiction
- Short Story
- Poetry
- Journalism
- Critical Essay
- Humor
- Science Fiction & Fantasy
- Dramatic Script
- Novel Writing
- Writing Portfolio
- etc.

Art

Categories include:

- Drawing & Illustration
- Painting
- Photography
- Mixed Media
- Digital Art
- Sculpture
- Fashion

- Ceramics & Glass
- Art Portfolio
- etc.

2027 timeline:

- **October 1, 2026:** Entries open
- Regional deadlines: approximately **December 1, 2026–January 6, 2027**, depending on region
- January 27, 2027: Regional results
- March 31, 2027: National results
- June 8–11: National Awards Week / Carnegie Hall events

IMPORTANT correction: The old note saying **December 15** is no longer a universal deadline. It depends on the regional affiliate.

[Scholastic Art & Writing Awards](#)

5. National Student Poets Program

Type: NATIONAL / Poetry

Description: Extremely selective national recognition for high-school poets. It is connected to the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards rather than being a normal stand-alone competition.

Students can be considered for the National Student Poets Program based on their Scholastic Awards entries.

Best strategy: Submit a particularly strong poetry body of work to Scholastic rather than treating this as a separate application.

[Scholastic Art & Writing Awards](#)

6. New York Times Learning Network Student Contests

Type: INTERNATIONAL / Writing + multimedia

Instead of keeping the old **Personal Narrative, Editorial and Connections contests** as three separate entries, I would replace them with this one master entry because NYT changes the contests from year to year.

The **2026–27 calendar has seven challenges** involving writing, visual art, video, audio and current events.

2026–27 contests particularly worth entering:

Tiny Memoir — 100-Word Personal Narrative

- Write a meaningful personal story in exactly/approximately the 100-word format specified by NYT.
- **September 16 – October 28, 2026**
- This is the modern replacement for the older Personal Narrative contest in your list.

What It's Like to Grow Up in 2026 — Visual Contest

- **October 28 – December 9, 2026**
- Multimedia/visual response about the experience of growing up today.

Open Letters — Opinion Writing Contest

- Write a persuasive public-facing letter about an issue that matters.
- **February 17 – March 31, 2027**
- This essentially replaces the old Student Editorial Contest format.

Podcast Contest

- **March 31 – May 12, 2027**

There are also STEM video and summer reading contests.

NYT Learning Network Student Contests

7. Press 53 — 53-Word Story Contest

Type: INTERNATIONAL / Monthly writing contest

Description: Write a complete story in **exactly 53 words** responding to that month's prompt.

Eligibility: No age restriction; writers around the world may enter if writing in English.

Award: Winner is published in **Prime Number Magazine** and receives a Press 53 book. Free to enter.

DEADLINE: 15th of every month at midnight ET.

IMPORTANT correction: Your old notes say the 21st. The current deadline is the **15th**.

September 2026 prompt: Write a 53-word story about “**an opening.**”

[Press 53 — 53-Word Story Contest](#)

8. National PTA Reflections

Type: LOCAL → STATE → NATIONAL / Writing + Art

Description: Large national arts program in which students submit work interpreting an annual theme. Entries generally begin at the local PTA level and can advance to district, state and national recognition.

Categories:

- Literature
- Visual Arts
- Photography
- Film Production
- Dance Choreography
- Music Composition

2026–27 Theme: “**What My Culture Means to Me.**”

Deadline: Determined by the student's local PTA/school, so check locally.

Note: The separate **Reflections Theme Search Contest** went on hiatus beginning April 2026, but the main Reflections arts competition still exists.

[National PTA Reflections](#)

9. Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Contest

Type: INTERNATIONAL / Writing + Visual Art + Multimedia

Description: Major environmental creative-arts competition for students ages **11–18 worldwide**.

Categories include:

- Creative Writing
- Poetry & Spoken Word
- Handcrafted Visual Art
- Digital Visual Art
- Film
- Multimedia
- Music/Dance

Students respond creatively to an annual ocean/environmental theme. It is **free to enter**.

2026 theme: *Your Story, Our Ocean: How Our Ocean Sustains, Protects, and Inspires Us*.

2026 deadline: June 8 — CLOSED.

2027: Bow Seat says the new theme will be announced in **September 2026**, so this is one to watch right now.

Winning work can also receive exhibition, publication and other showcase opportunities.

[Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Contest](#)

WRITING PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

10. The Interlochen Review

Type: INTERNATIONAL / Selective publication — writing + art

Description: Online literary journal produced by Interlochen Arts Academy students. Publishes work by high-school writers and artists around the world.

Eligibility: Grades **9–12** or **high-school postgraduate year**.

Writing accepted:

- Fiction — under 5,000 words
- Nonfiction — under 5,000 words
- Poetry

- Hybrid work
- Scripts/screenplays — under 40 pages
- Songs

Art:

- Visual art
- Photography
- Film
- Individual works or portfolios of up to **20 pieces**

They explicitly allow work that has already been recognized by **Scholastic or YoungArts**, as long as it has not otherwise been published.

Current status: CLOSED. **Check back January 2027** for the next submission period.

[The Interlochen Review — Submit](#)

11. Hanging Loose Magazine — High School Writing

Type: NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL publication

Description: Established literary magazine that has included a dedicated high-school writing section **since 1968**.

Accepts:

- Up to 6 poems
- Flash fiction
- Short fiction up to **1,000 words**

They prefer submissions directly from the student rather than from a teacher or parent.

Current status: ACTIVE.

Submission: Email writing as a Word/PDF attachment to the high-school submissions address listed on the site.

[Hanging Loose — High School Submissions](#)

12. Hypernova Lit

Type: Teen literary/art publication — NOT an award

Description: Online literary journal specifically devoted to teenage writing and visual art. It accepts fiction, poetry, essays, memoir-style writing, scripts, photography, painting, digital art, mixed media, fashion, sculpture and other forms.

Important: Hypernova explicitly says it is **not a contest and does not award prizes**; being selected means publication.

Current status: Submissions are currently **CLOSED**.

I would therefore move this out of an “Awards” folder and into a “**Publications**” folder.

[Hypernova Lit — Submit](#)

13. Aerie International

Type: INTERNATIONAL / Teen writing + art publication

Description: Literary and art magazine produced by student editors at Big Sky High School. Intended as an international publication platform for young writers and artists.

Historically accepted:

- Poetry
- Short stories / flash fiction
- Nonfiction
- Lyric essays
- Drama
- Visual art
- Photography

Historically, writers/artists had to be **ages 13–19 and enrolled in secondary school**, and selected category winners received \$100.

Current status: **No open calls.** The submission information still displays an old 2020 deadline, so I would mark this **INACTIVE / CHECK FOR RETURN** rather than planning around it.

[Aerie International submission portal](#)

WRITING CONTESTS TO WATCH / STATUS UNCLEAR

14. Columbia College Chicago Young Authors Writing Competition

Type: INTERNATIONAL / High-school writing

Description: Historically a very strong competition for grades 9–12 worldwide.

Categories:

- Fiction
- Creative Nonfiction
- Poetry

Students could historically submit up to **two entries per category**, six total. Creative nonfiction included literary personal essays, memoir and cultural criticism rather than ordinary academic essays.

Status: The most recent winner announcement I could verify is **2023**.

I would mark this:

STATUS: Possibly inactive / check for reopening before spending time preparing an entry.

15. Ringling College — Storytellers of Tomorrow

Type: INTERNATIONAL / High-school creative writing

Description: Free creative-writing competition from Ringling College of Art and Design.

Recent categories have included:

- Genre fiction
- Literary fiction
- Nonfiction
- Scripts/comics/other storytelling
- Micro-RPG/game writing

The most recently verified cycle allowed high-school students to submit work under **2,000 words**. Awards included:

- 1st: **\$500**
- 2nd: **\$250**
- 3rd: **\$100**
- Top winner also received one-on-one consultation with a literary professional
- Special winners could receive full-tuition scholarships to Ringling's summer PreCollege program.

Status: I found recent evidence that Ringling still describes Storytellers of Tomorrow as its flagship high-school writing competition, but I could not verify a posted **2026–27 application window** yet.

WATCH FOR: approximately fall/winter reopening.

[Ringling College](#)

16. Rider University High School Writing Contest

Type: HIGH SCHOOL / Writing

Description: Rider University's English Department continues to list an **annual Writing Contest for Secondary Students**.

Categories:

- Essay
- Short Story
- Poetry

Awards: Cash prizes plus possible publication in Rider's *Venture* literary magazine.

Current deadline: Not currently posted on the main Rider page. The university directs interested students to contact the contest director.

[Rider English Honors & Awards](#)

VISUAL ART AWARDS

17. Congressional Art Competition

Type: LOCAL/DISTRICT → NATIONAL recognition

Description: Nationwide visual-art competition sponsored every spring by members of the U.S. House of Representatives.

High-school students submit work through **their own congressional representative's office**. Each participating congressional district selects a winner.

Big recognition: The winning artwork from each district is displayed for **one year in the U.S. Capitol**, and winners are recognized at an annual ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Accepted media generally include:

- Painting
- Drawing
- Colored pencil
- Mixed media
- Collage
- Prints
- Computer-generated art
- Photography

Artwork must generally be 2D and fit the national size requirements.

Timing: Usually **spring**; deadlines differ by congressional district.

2026 cycle: Finished in most districts. Watch for **2027** information early next year.

[U.S. House — Congressional Art Competition](#)