



Young Artists & Artists Showcase (YAAS) Submission Requirements

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- Deadline for all categories is 5 pm – Friday, March 27, 2026
- Artists must be between the ages of 12-18 as of April 1, 2026.
- Artists must be a Newport News resident, a member of Sister Cities Newport News or submitted by one of SCNN’s international partner cities.
- Theme applies to all categories. Judges will evaluate submissions based on theme interpretation, originality, and creativity.
- Artists may submit work in multiple showcases (only 1 submission per category).
- Each submission requires a separate entry form.
- Physical art must be provided for the “Classic Art” showcase.
- Entries in all other categories must be submitted electronically in a format indicated for each showcase (see showcase rules below).

Submission Requirements by Category

CLASSIC ART

- All work must be original.
- Mediums accepted: Oil, acrylic, watercolor, charcoal, colored pencil, and mixed media on paper or canvas.
- Only two-dimensional (2-D) artwork will be accepted.
- NOTE: Sister Cities International (SCI) is not accepting physical artwork. The winner of SCNN’s local contest will be photographed and submitted electronically.

DIGITAL ART

- Minimum resolution of 1350x1080 px.
- Moving or animated pieces will not be accepted.
- Pieces should be created using digital programs such as Adobe Photoshop, Procreate, digital painting platforms, etc.
- Submit artwork as a .jpg or .png file.
- All artwork must be original and created entirely by the student. AI-generated or AI-assisted work is strictly prohibited and will be automatically disqualified.

PHOTOGRAPHY

- Only two-dimensional (2-D) works will be accepted.
- Digital Edits: Limited digital edits (filters, lighting, color correction, cropping) are permitted, but adding or removing key elements is not allowed. If major edits are applied, submit under the Digital Art category instead.
- Submit works as a high-resolution photo in .jpg or .png format.
- Photographs must be taken by the student and must not include AI-generated or manipulated elements. Any AI use will result in automatic disqualification.



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ESSAY

- Requirements: Essays may be narrative, reflective, or creative nonfiction.
- Must be written in English
- Must not exceed 500 words.
- Submit as .pdf or .doc file, include a title and your name.
- All writing must be the student's original work. AI-generated or AI-assisted writing (including paraphrasing tools) is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification.
- Judges will evaluate submissions based on theme interpretation, originality, composition, and grammar.

POETRY

- Poems may be in any style or form (free verse, rhymed, haiku, etc.)
- Must be written in English.
- Maximum 200 words.
- Submit as .pdf or .doc file with a title.
- Originality: All poems must be original and written by the student. AI-generated or AI-assisted poetry will result in automatic disqualification.

ORIGINAL MUSIC

- Audio-only submissions; no videos.
- Maximum length: 4 minutes.
- Submissions may be instrumental or include lyrics and can be produced using instruments or music software.
- Submit as an MP3 file.
- Music must be original. **Covers, reinterpretations, or remixes are not accepted.** All compositions must be created entirely by the student. AI-generated or AI-assisted music (melodies, lyrics, or production) is strictly prohibited and will be automatically disqualified.

HOW TO ENTER

Each submission must have an entry form. Download entry forms at

<https://www.sistercities-nn.com/yaas.html>

Questions? Call 757-697-3129 or email us at info@sistercities-nn.com

Artists are encouraged to post their work using these tags...

@SisterCitiesInt

@SisterCitiesNN

#YAAS2026

#SCNNYAAS

#ConnectTravelLearn