

SJC250 Student Art Contest

Celebrating 250 Years of the USA, and the Mission San Juan Capistrano

OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES:

Overview: In celebration of the 250th anniversary of the United States and the Mission San Juan Capistrano, the City of San Juan Capistrano invites all students - grades 1 through 12 - to participate in a city-wide art contest. This is an opportunity for young artists to reflect on our city's unique cultural heritage, the founding of our nation, and the values of unity, history, and creativity.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Open to all students in grades 1–12 who attend school in San Juan Capistrano (public and private).
- Participation is free of charge.

THEMES:

"250 Years of Legacy: Our City, Our Nation"

Students are encouraged to create artwork that celebrates:

- Mission San Juan Capistrano
- The Acjachemen "Juaneño" Nation
- The Equestrian Culture of San Juan Capistrano
- The founding ideals and journey of the United States of America
- The spirit of community, diversity, and unity over the past 250 years

ART MEDIA GUIDELINES:

- Accepted media includes:
 - Pencil, pen, colored pencil, marker, crayon, charcoal
 - Paints - watercolor, acrylic, tempera
 - Mixed media - as long as it is flat and securely adhered to surface
 - Photography
 - Digital artwork
- Use of AI-generated images or templates is prohibited.
- All entries must be 100% original and created by the student.
- Artwork must not exceed 18"x24" in size.
- Artwork must be un-framed
- Artwork made from, or containing the following, is not eligible:
 - Art Kits
 - Ready-made patterns



- Tracings
- Follow-the-dots
- Glitter or Particulates
- Copyrighted Material
- School Level winners will have their artwork professionally adhered to a Poster Board for City-Wide judging.

JUDGING STRUCTURE:

School-Level Judging:

- Each school will collect entries from each grade.
- One winner will be selected per grade (1–12) by an independent judging panel who will come to your school for selection of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place winners.
- 1st Place winners at each School become City-Wide Finalists.

City-Wide Final Judging:

- All finalists from each grade will be judged together to determine three City Winners per grade – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.
- Judging will be conducted by an appointed panel of local artists, educators, and community leaders.
- Confirmed Judges:
 - Randi Peshkin
 - Donna Friess
 - Natalie Friess
 - Paul Ecke
 - Loree Werner

JUDGING CRITERIA:

Judging will be blind and impartial, with no identifying information visible during review.

Artworks will be judged on the following criteria:

1. Thematic Accuracy
2. Creativity and Originality
3. Artistic Expression
4. Effort and Presentation

SUBMISSION RULES:

- All entries must include a student information form (name, grade, school, contact info), which will be detached before judging.



- Artwork must include an 'Artist Statement' – a short-written explanation by an artist that helps people understand what their artwork means, why they created it, and what inspired them to make art. An artist statement can be two to five sentences.
- Entries must be submitted to the student's school office by the specified deadline March 19, 2026.
- Schools to provide a centralized location(s) for judging at their institution.
- A Teacher/Parent/Caregiver must validate that a student's artwork was created entirely by the youth.
- Late entries will not be accepted.

Pertinent Dates:

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| • Message to schools with final rules | 9/12/2025 |
| • Due date for initial judging at the schools | 3/19/2026 |
| • School Level Judging on-site at each school | 3/25 & 3/26/2026 |
| • Final Judging at La Sala Auditorium | 4/16/2026 |
| • Award Ceremony @ City Council Meeting | 5/19/2026 |
| • Public display of winning entries (Silvas Adobe) | 6/1 – 6/31/2026 |
| • Art Disposition | 7/1/2026 |

AWARDS & RECOGNITION:

- All school-level winners will receive certificates of recognition.
- City-level grade winners will be honored at a public art showcase and awards ceremony hosted by the City of San Juan Capistrano.
- Select winning entries will be featured in a public exhibit during the city's 250th anniversary events.

ARTISTIC RIGHTS:

Student Artists retain ownership of their artwork. The SJC250 Art Committee requests a non-exclusive license to display, publish, and promote student artwork in connection with the contest and city events.

ACCESSIBILITY COMMITMENT:

This contest is designed to be accessible and inclusive. Students of all abilities are encouraged to participate. If special accommodations are needed, schools and families are encouraged to contact the SJC250 Art Committee for assistance.

For additional details, school deadlines, and information on the awards ceremony, please contact: Rich Heimann, Chairman of the Student Art Committee –
rheimann@tasja.org

