

NOAA Marine Debris Program

Art Contest

Opens October 13th



The NOAA Marine Debris Program wants your help to raise awareness about the global problem of marine debris! We're looking for original and inspiring artwork from students around the country to feature in the annual Marine Debris Program calendar. So grab your art supplies, be creative, and show us:

1. **How marine debris impacts the ocean and the Great Lakes environment.**
2. **What you are doing to help prevent marine debris.**

CONTEST RULES

Criteria for Art & Description – Each entry must be composed of a piece of artwork **and** a description (on the entry form). **All must meet the requirements below.** Students are highly encouraged to check out the NOAA Marine Debris Program's website for information about marine debris: <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov>. A NOAA awards panel will collect all entries and select 13 winners to be featured in

a marine debris calendar. Entries will be judged on the creativity, artistic presentation, and relevancy to the theme.

Eligibility – All students in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade from all U.S. states and territories enrolled in recognized public, private, and home schools are eligible to participate. Schools, including home schools, must be in compliance with federal and state civil rights and nondiscrimination statutes. *Students must work individually.*

ARTWORK & DESCRIPTION REQUIREMENTS:

1. One entry per student.
2. The entries must be on a single sheet of 8.5" x 11" paper, **landscape**.
3. Use white, non-glossy paper; **do not laminate**.
4. Any art medium may be used (e.g., colored pencils, crayons, paint), computer graphics will not be accepted. Artwork must be hand-drawn by the student.
5. Artwork must be flat (e.g., no glued pieces or glitter) and able to be scanned.
6. Avoid labeling debris items with any brand names in the artwork.
7. A description of no more than 75 words must accompany the artwork (space provided on the entry form).
8. Label each mail entry on the back in pencil (marker bleeds through the artwork) with the student's name, age, and grade, along with the teacher's name, school name, address, and telephone number.
9. If submitting your entry electronically, accepted file types are: JPEG, PNG, or TIFF. Make sure your files are high resolution (scanning is encouraged), not crooked, and easy to see and/or read.

SUBMITTING ENTRIES

This year we are accepting entries by mail and electronically. As always, there should be one entry form filled out per student. Please ensure that the entry form is filled out completely and legibly. All entries (entry form + artwork) must be submitted by mail (postmarked) or electronically no later than **December 11, 2026**.

Submitting Entries By Mail

Mail your entry (entry form + artwork) to:

**Marine Debris Art Contest
NOAA Marine Debris Program
1305 East-West Highway,
SSMC4, Room 8653
Silver Spring, MD 20910**

Submitting Entries Electronically

Email your entry (entry form + artwork) to: md.artcontest@noaa.gov.

Attach the entry form

Attach the artwork as a JPEG, PNG, or TIFF

Make sure your artwork is high resolution (scanning is encouraged), not crooked, and are easy to see and/or read.

Please note: Our email system will not accept emails with attachments larger than 18MB. If you are submitting multiple entries via email, please number them, send them in individual emails, or reach out to confirm we have received all of your entries.

If you have any questions, please email md.artcontest@noaa.gov.

For more information, visit <https://MarineDebris.noaa.gov>

ENTRY FORM (page 1 of 2)

“Keep the Sea Free of Debris” Art Contest & 2028 Calendar

There should be one entry form filled out per student. Please ensure that the form is filled out completely and legibly. All entries (entry form and artwork) must be submitted either electronically or by mail (postmarked) no later than **December 11, 2026**.

Student First and Last Name: _____

Grade Level: _____ Age: _____

Teacher's Name: _____

School Name (or home school): _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State/Territory: _____ Zip code: _____

School/Teacher Phone #: (____) _____

Teacher Email Address: _____

Please ensure accuracy as this information will be used to contact winners.

Parent Name: _____

Parent Address: _____

City: _____ State/Territory: _____ Zip code: _____

Parent Phone #: (____) _____

Parent Email Address: _____

Artwork Description:

Art Medium Used (e.g., colored pencils, crayon, paint): _____

Description (75 words max; please print legibly; can be completed on a separate sheet of paper): How does marine debris impact our oceans and Great Lakes, and what will you do to help to keep our ocean debris free?

PLEASE READ

Submission of this entry implies permission to use the student's name (first name and last initial) in materials announcing results of the contest and in any use by the NOAA Marine Debris Program of the artwork in their publications and website.

☐ Check here if you **do not permit** use of the student's name (first names and last initials) and school in the above-mentioned items.

Please note that entries **will not be returned**.

Form continues on next page.

ENTRY FORM (page 2 of 2)

“Keep the Sea Free of Debris” Art Contest & 2028 Calendar

I, _____ hereby irrevocably grant a non-exclusive and nontransferable
(parent or legal guardian)
license to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the NOAA Marine Debris Program for use(s) of my child’s name (first name and last initial) and artwork as authorized below. I hereby warrant that I have the right to grant this license and that I have sole copyright ownership of the artwork in question.

Compensation

I agree to allow the use of my child’s name (first name and last initial) and artwork as authorized below, and therefore I relinquish compensation in any form for the uses outlined below.

Signature

Date

Authorization (mark the following with an X)

Permission is granted for my photograph(s) to be used by:

- ☐ NOAA Marine Debris Program
☐ NOAA Marine Debris Program partners
☐ Any and all users (public domain)

for use in:

- ☐ Unlimited education and outreach uses (*Education and outreach uses include, but are not limited to, display of photograph(s) on websites, in exhibits and brochures, as well as other educational materials.*)
☐ Other (please specify) _____

for length of time:

- ☐ In perpetuity
☐ For the duration of (please specify) _____

Finally, I agree that the NOAA Marine Debris Program has, by securing my permission and additional information in this release, done everything possible to anticipate the various use(s) of my child’s name (first name and last initial) and artwork and to ascertain my wishes regarding uses of my child’s name (first name and last initial) and artwork. If there is any violation of this agreement by any party other than the NOAA Marine Debris Program, I agree not to hold NOAA responsible.

Signature

Date

Printed Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

State/Territory: _____ Zip code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____