

# ART AND POETRY COMPETITIONS FOR KIDS!

In celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing  
of the Declaration of Independence

**OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS GRADES K-8  
IN PHOENIX**

**SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO ENTER**

## ART AND POETRY CONTEST GRADES K-5

1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$200  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$100  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$40

## ART CONTEST GRADES 6-8

1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$500  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$350  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$180

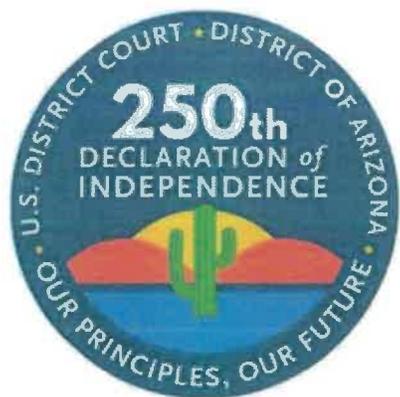
## POETRY CONTEST GRADES 6-8

1<sup>st</sup> Place: \$500  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: \$350  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place: \$180

**LET YOUR CREATIVITY  
SHINE! FREE TO ENTER**







**United States District Court  
District of Arizona - Phoenix Division  
Semiquincentennial Celebration  
Art & Poetry Contest  
(Kindergarten – Fifth Grade)**

## **Rules and Guidelines for the Art & Poetry Contest (K-5)**

**Who May Enter:** The 2026 United States District Court for the District of Arizona, Phoenix Division, Semiquincentennial Celebration Art & Poetry Contest is open to students in kindergarten through 5th grade in following Phoenix counties: Maricopa, Pinal, La Paz, and Gila. Students attending public, private, parochial and charter schools, and home-schooled students of equivalent grade status, are invited to participate.

**Prizes:**

- First Place: \$200
- Second Place: \$100
- Third Place: \$40

**Prompt:** *Write or create a piece of artwork about what freedom means to you.*

**Artwork Format:** There are no limitations to artwork size or medium; however, artwork must be transportable.

**Poetry Format:** Poems must be submitted in a PDF file.

**Contest Submissions:** A photo of your artwork or a PDF file of your poem along with a completed and signed entry form must be submitted to [Phoenix Semiquincentennial Website](#). One submission per student—students may submit a piece of art or a poem, but not both. You will receive email confirmation after successful submission of your materials.

Students must retain their original artwork or a copy of their poem pending confirmation of contest finalists. Finalists must be able to transport their original artwork to the Sandra Day O'Connor U.S. Courthouse, 401 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85003 at the date and time announced by contest organizers.

**Contest Duration:** Entries will be accepted starting **February 4, 2026**. Finalists will be announced in April and winners in May. The deadline to submit entries is **March 31, 2026**, by 11:59 p.m. MST.

## **Judging Criteria:**

- 1. Connection to the Declaration of Independence;**
- 2. Effort and thoughtfulness;**
- 3. Creativity, originality, and depth; and**
- 4. Reflection on freedom, equality, or self-governance.**

**Release Forms:** Each entry will require submission of an entry form allowing the District of Arizona to display your artwork and poetry at public events, District of Arizona Courthouses, and/or the Court's public website.

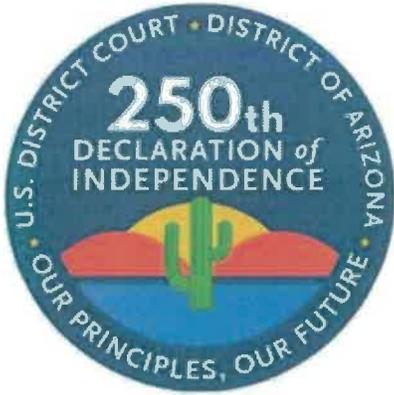
## **Important Notice on Originality and Use of AI:**

Your submission must be your own original work, written or created entirely by you and not generated by or written with the help of artificial intelligence (AI) tools. Submissions may be reviewed using AI-detection tools or other verification methods to ensure authenticity. Submissions found to include AI-generated content will be disqualified.

## **Compliance with Other Contest Requirements:**

Providing any false information, failing to meet the submission deadline, or failing to adhere to other contest rules may result in disqualification.

**Questions:** Email [artandpoetryphx-pct@azd.uscourts.gov](mailto:artandpoetryphx-pct@azd.uscourts.gov) and include "Question" in the subject line.



**United States District Court  
District of Arizona – Phoenix Division  
Semiquincentennial Celebration  
Art Contest & Poetry Contest  
(Sixth Grade – Eighth Grade)**

## **Rules and Guidelines for the Art Contest (6–8) and the Poetry Contest (6–8)**

**Who May Enter:** The 2026 United States District Court for the District of Arizona, Phoenix Division, Semiquincentennial Celebration Art and Poetry Contests are open to students in 6th through 8th grade in the following Phoenix counties: Maricopa, Pinal, La Paz, and Gila. Students attending public, private, parochial and charter schools, and home-schooled students of equivalent grade status, are invited to participate. Each student may submit one entry to the Art Contest and one entry to the Poetry Contest.

### **Prizes:<sup>1</sup>**

- First Place: \$500
- Second Place: \$350
- Third Place: \$180

**Art Contest Prompt:** *Create a piece of visual artwork showing how the Declaration of Independence affects our lives today.*

**Artwork Format:** There are no limitations to artwork size or medium; however, artwork must be transportable.

**Poetry Contest Prompt:** *Write a poem about what the Declaration of Independence means to you or how the Declaration of Independence still affects us today.*

**Poetry Format:** Poems must be submitted in PDF format.

**Contest Submissions:** A photo of your artwork and/or a PDF file of your poem along with a completed and signed entry form must be submitted to [Phoenix Semiquincentennial Website](#). If you are participating in both contests, please submit two signed entry forms—one for your poem and one for your artwork. You will receive email confirmation after successful submission of your materials.

Students must retain their original artwork and/or a copy of their poem pending confirmation of contest finalists. Art Contest Finalists must be able to transport their original artwork to the Sandra Day O'Connor

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<sup>1</sup>Prizes will be awarded to the winners of both the Art and Poetry Contests.

U.S. Courthouse, 401 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85003, at the date and time announced by contest organizers.

**Contest Durations:** Entries for both contests will be accepted starting **February 4, 2026**. Finalists will be announced in April and winners in May. The deadline to submit entries is **March 31, 2026**, by 11:59 p.m. MST.

**Judging Criteria:**

- 1. Connection to the Declaration of Independence;**
- 2. Effort and thoughtfulness;**
- 3. Creativity, originality, and depth; and**
- 4. Reflection on freedom, equality, or self-governance.**

**Release Forms:** Each entry will require a submission of an entry form allowing the District of Arizona to display your artwork and poetry at public events, District of Arizona Courthouses, and/or the Court's public website.

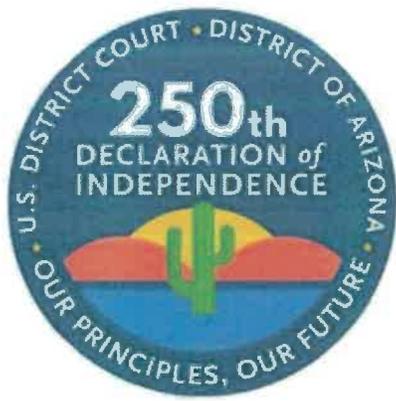
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Your submissions must be your own original work, written or created entirely by you and not generated by or written with the help of artificial intelligence (AI) tools. Submissions may be reviewed using AI-detection tools or other verification methods to ensure authenticity. Submissions found to include AI-generated content will be disqualified.

**Compliance with Other Contest Requirements:**

Providing any false information, failing to meet the submission deadline or adhere to other contest rules, or failing to provide a requested release form may result in disqualification.

**Questions:** Email [artandpoetryphx-pct@azd.uscourts.gov](mailto:artandpoetryphx-pct@azd.uscourts.gov) and include "Question" in the subject line.



**United States District Court, District of Arizona**  
**2026 Semiquincentennial Celebration**  
**Art & Poetry Contests**  
 (Elementary – Middle School)

**Entry Form**

**Student Information** *(Required Information)*

Student Name:	
Age:	
Grade:	
School Name & Contact information:	

**Art / Poetry Information** *(Required Information)*

Title of Artwork/Poem (if applicable):	
Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Art <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry

**Description of Artwork/Poem** *(Optional)*

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**By signing below, I acknowledge I am the parent or legal guardian of the above-named student. I voluntarily consent to my student's participation in the District of Arizona Semiquincentennial Art & Poetry Contest and acknowledge and agree to the following:**

**Public Display and Use:** Upon entry into the contest, I understand and consent that the submission may be shown by various means throughout the federal judiciary, the District of Arizona, and to the public, including posting on the federal judiciary's and/or District of Arizona's intranet, public internet websites, courthouse displays, civics tours, and naturalization ceremonies for educational and informational purposes.

**Ownership, Rights, and Intellectual Property:** I hereby consent and assign, transfer, or otherwise convey to the United States District Court, District of Arizona, and the organizers of the District of Arizona Semiquincentennial Celebration, all rights, ownership, title, and interest in and to the student's original submission, including without limitation all copyrights and other intellectual property rights therein.

**Use, Reproduction, and Editing:** I agree that the submission may be used, edited, reproduced, distributed, and presented in any manner deemed appropriate by the organizers without additional consent or payment to the student, parent/guardian, or any other person.

**Photograph Authorization:** I consent to and authorize the use of the student's photograph in connection with federal court publications and related Semiquincentennial materials, whether in print or online, for informational and educational purposes.

**Public Domain and Duration:** I understand that the District of Arizona's use of the submission and photograph in connection with Semiquincentennial events may be considered public domain and may be used by third parties to the extent permitted by law. I acknowledge that entries may be displayed even if not selected as a contest winner. This release has no time limit and no geographic limitation.

**Participant Release and Authorization:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Participant Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Release and Authorization:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_