

2016 CONGRESSIONAL ART CONTEST
AN ARTISTIC DISCOVERY
U. S. CONGRESSMAN PETE SESSIONS (TX-32)

I know that your students have many opportunities to participate in art contests throughout the year. I hope that you will consider encouraging them to participate in this event. The winning artist will have their piece exhibited in the United States Capitol for a year.

Please review the details that follow which are specific to the 32nd Congressional District contest:

- Students attending public or private schools residing in the 32nd Congressional District are eligible to participate. **Please note:** For all PRIVATE and MAGNET schools it is especially important to determine if students reside in our district. If you need assistance to determine if a student resides in the 32nd District, please contact Rachel Wong in our office at 972.392.0505 or use the following link: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>
- All participants must be U. S. Citizens or permanent legal residents with a valid Social Security number.
- Our theme this year is “*America the Beautiful*,” any artwork that does not abide by this theme will be *ineligible* to win any of the prizes.
- Student artwork must conform to the guidelines attached. **The framing guidelines only apply to the grand prize winning entry.** The winning entry will have to be framed no later than Wednesday, May 11th in order for it to be shipped to Washington, D.C. by the deadline. *Please note: It is the responsibility of the grand prize winner to frame his/her own artwork by the guidelines provided.*
- We are accepting only **one** entry from each artist.
- Each entry must be registered **online** through our website at <http://sessions.house.gov/index.cfm/congressional-art-competition> by either the student or teacher. **A digital image of the entry must also be submitted in order for the entry to be eligible for the People’s Choice Award.** All entries must be submitted online by **Friday, April 1st by 5:00 p.m.**
- Teachers will receive an email confirmation from our office on or around April 5th notifying them of which students are participating in the contest and will arrange for our staff to pick up the artwork directly from the school. Artwork will be picked up at the participating schools on **Monday, April 11th & Tuesday, April 12th.**
- Upon pickup, each entry must have a Student Information and Release form completed, signed and securely attached to the back of their entry. **Please note: This form must be TYPED.** A fillable PDF of the form is available through our website at <http://sessions.house.gov/index.cfm/congressional-art-competition>
- Artwork will be judged on **Wednesday, April 13th** by local artists and art educators. They will select the Grand Prize winner and two Runners-Up. The pieces that do not win the grand prize or runners up and have corresponding digital images on file with our office will be eligible for the People’s Choice Award. The images will be linked to the Congressman’s website at <http://www.sessions.house.gov> for a week and people will be able to vote on their favorite. The piece with the most votes will receive the People’s Choice Award.
- Artwork other than the winning pieces will be returned to the schools on **April 14th & 15th.**
- We will hold an awards ceremony on **Monday, April 25th** for the winners, their parents, principals, and art teachers.

PRIZES:

Grand Prize Winner: Two (2) free airline tickets to Washington, D.C. to attend the Winner's Reception for the unveiling of the artwork in June, artwork will be displayed in the United States Capitol for the next year, and a tour of the United States Capitol provided by the office of Congressman Pete Sessions.

Runners-Up (2): Pieces will be showcased in the Congressman's district office.

People's Choice Award: All remaining pieces, other than the grand prize and runners up, that submitted JPEG images in their submission will be displayed on the Congressman's Facebook page for one week where people can vote on their favorite piece. The entry with the most 'Likes' will be the *People's Choice*. It will hang in the Congressman's district office.

GOOD LUCK!

Please visit our website at <http://www.house.gov/sessions> for contest rules and updates. Any questions should be directed to Rachel Wong at 972.392.0505 or rachel.wong@mail.house.gov.