

Colorado

COUNTRY LIFE



2026 COOPERATIVE STUDENT ART CONTEST

RULES AND ELIGIBILITY

CONTEST SUMMARY

- Students will be judged in **four grade divisions: K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12.**
- First and second place winners will be selected from each grade division.
- All submitted artwork must include a **brief artist statement** (at least one sentence) explaining how it connects to the theme **"Winter's Glow."**
- Deadline:** All entries must be postmarked by **October 23, 2026.**

WHO CAN ENTER

- Colorado public, private, or home-schooled students in kindergarten through 12th grade are eligible to enter.
- Students do **not** need to be members of a rural electric cooperative.
- Artwork can be submitted by:
 - Individual students
 - Teachers, youth leaders, or parents/guardians on a student's behalf.
- Students may submit a maximum of three entries; however, each student may receive only one placement award.

ARTWORK THEME

Theme: Winter's Glow

Students of all ages can interpret the theme in their own way. Here are some ideas to spark creativity:

- Colorado landscapes or everyday life
- Ways people use energy and electricity to power places or daily activities
- Community events, traditions, or local landmarks
- Lighting the holidays
- Wintertime activities

Artist Statement

Write a brief artist statement (at least one sentence) explaining how your artwork connects to the theme "Winter's Glow."

You may write it on the back of your artwork or submit it with your entry form.

HOW TO ENTER

Students must submit their artwork by mail. Please follow these appropriate instructions.

Mail Submission

Send physical artwork to:

Cooperative Art Contest

455 S. Pierce St.

Lakewood, CO 80226

- A completed entry form (at the end of this document) must be taped to back of the artwork.
- The artwork entry must **not exceed 11 x 17 inches.**
- Please ensure the following is written on the back of each piece of artwork: **student name, grade level, and email address.**
- Entries will not be returned unless requested on the entry form and only if prepaid return postage and proper packaging are included. We strive to return requested artwork by **February 2027.**
- The Colorado Rural Electric Association/*Colorado Country Life* is not responsible for artwork lost, damaged, or delayed during shipping.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Artwork will be evaluated within the following grade divisions: **K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.**

Grade Division Winners

A total of **8 winning artworks** will be selected (two per grade division). Within each grade division, the following awards will be presented:

- 1st Place: \$100** recognition check and publication in *Colorado Country Life* magazine.
- 2nd Place: \$50** recognition check and publication in *Colorado Country Life* magazine.

Best of Show

A Best of Show award will be selected from among the 1st Place winners and will receive an **additional \$100** recognition check.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Students may use a variety or combinations of materials, including but not limited to paint, pencils, markers, collage, stamping, and more.
- Submit original artwork only (see Originality Guidelines for full rules).
- Do not use ruled notebook paper; drawings on white or light-colored paper reproduce best.
- Late or incomplete entries will not be accepted.

Specific guidelines for mailed entries:

- Do not mount, mat, or frame mailed submissions.
- Do not fold or crease artwork.
- As a reminder, **entries will not be returned unless requested on the entry form and only if prepaid return postage and proper packaging are included.**

Deadline: All entries must be postmarked by October 23, 2026.

KEY DATES

- **August 1, 2026** – Contest opens; entry forms available.
- **October 23, 2026** – Postmark deadline.
- **November 2026** – Judging period; entries reviewed by grade division. Winner notification via phone and email.

JUDGING & SELECTION

Students will be judged in **four grade divisions: K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12.**

First and second place winners will be selected from **each grade division.**

Students may use a variety of materials, including but not limited to paint, pencils, markers, collage, stamping, and more.

Artwork will be evaluated based on:

- Creativity and originality.
- Artistic skill and effort.
- How well the artwork represents the theme, “Winter’s Glow.”
- Artist statement clarity and connection to the theme
 - Artist statements must reflect the student’s own ideas. However, adult assistance with writing or transcription is permitted.

A panel of judges will select winners in November 2026. All judging decisions are final.

NOTIFICATION OF WINNERS

- * The first and second place winners from each grade division will be notified. Upon notification, winners will be provided instructions on how to receive their recognition check.
- If you are not contacted by the end of November 2026, your artwork was not selected.

- CREA/*Colorado Country Life* will notify winners by email and phone using the contact information provided on the entry form. Results will also be published online at coloradocountrylife.coop.

ORIGINALITY GUIDELINES & RULES

- All submissions must be original works of art created entirely by the participating student. Teachers, parents, and guardians are responsible for ensuring entries meet all contest requirements.
- Artwork must be the student’s own original creation and may not be copied from other sources without substantial creative changes; this includes any published or unpublished source, including other artwork or photographs.
- Every element of the artwork (design, lines, marks, paint, color, shapes, shading, highlights, etc.) must be created by the submitting student.
- Tracing or direct replication of another artist’s work is not permitted, including teacher- or parent-drawn templates or sketches.
- A print of digitally created artwork will be accepted. However, submissions created or significantly altered using artificial intelligence (AI) are not eligible for submission.

Colorado Country Life reserves the right to exclude artwork from the contest deemed questionable, copied, plagiarized, or substantially derived from another source.

If plagiarism is discovered after awards are issued, *Colorado Country Life* reserves the right to request the award money be returned and remove recognition from all contest materials, including online galleries. The student may also be disqualified from future contests.

Entries may be disqualified for failure to meet eligibility requirements, incomplete entry forms, late submissions, or noncompliance with contest rules.

OWNERSHIP & USAGE RIGHTS

All artwork and reproduction rights become the property of CREA/*Colorado Country Life* and its members. This includes the right to reproduce and use entries for promotional and educational purposes in cooperative publications, websites, and media distribution.

We will respect the integrity of the artwork and will not allow the outside commercial use of entered artwork without permission of the artist (and parent(s)/guardian(s)).

FOR MORE DETAILS

Please email artcontest@coloradocountrylife.org.



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2026 COOPERATIVE STUDENT ART CONTEST ENTRY FORM

To ensure that each entry in the art contest is the original work of the student artist whose name appears on the back of each work, *Colorado Country Life* requires that this form be signed by each student and, if the student is under 18 years of age, by a parent/guardian/teacher/supervising adult. **This form must be included with the artwork submitted for the contest. Artwork submissions must include all contact information to qualify for the contest.**

ARTIST INFORMATION

STUDENT'S NAME

AGE

GRADE

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY

ZIP

TELEPHONE NUMBER

AGREEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

Students and teachers/parents/guardians are responsible for entering only original works of art entirely produced by the above named student that have been submitted with this form. (Please see contest rules to read guidelines on originality).

I, _____, the above named student, hereby acknowledge and attest the artwork entered in the Cooperative Student Art Contest submitted with this form is my sole, original creation and the artwork follows the contest's rules on originality and has not been copied from any previously published photo or artwork.

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE

PARENT/GUARDIAN/TEACHER'S SIGNATURE *(If student is under 18)*

RELATION TO STUDENT

EMAIL ADDRESS

ARTIST STATEMENT (may be attached):

Please check box if you receive your electricity from an electric cooperative. This is for informational purposes only and has no bearing on the contest judging.

