

Rules and Eligibility



Contest summary

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

First, second, and third 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.

Deadline: All entries must be submitted online or postmarked by March 5, 2027.

Who can enter

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

Artwork theme

Create artwork that shows the people, places, or activities that help power our state and keep Indiana moving forward.

This could include people, nature, agriculture, landscapes, businesses, or moments from everyday life in your community. Think about how power is all around us — from the energy that lights our homes and buildings to the people who work together to strengthen life where we live.

Electric cooperatives are built on community and the people who live in them, so let your art show the many ways that together, we power Indiana.

Students of all ages can interpret the theme in their own way.

Here are some ideas to spark creativity:

- Indiana landscapes or everyday life (farms, small towns, neighborhoods, etc.)
- Ways people use energy and electricity to power places or daily activities
- Community helpers (lineworkers, farmers, teachers, first responders, families)
- Important places like schools, hospitals, or community spaces
- Agriculture, industry, or Indiana businesses
- Community events, traditions, or local landmarks
- A creative or imaginative vision of Indiana's energy future

ARTIST STATEMENT

Write a brief **artist statement** (at least one sentence) explaining how your artwork connects to the theme.

The statement may be written on the back of the artwork or submitted with the entry form.

How to enter

Students may submit their artwork online or by mail. Please follow the appropriate instructions for your chosen method.

ONLINE SUBMISSION

- Complete the **Online Entry Form** and upload a photo or scan of your artwork.
- No mailed copies of artwork or entry forms are required for online entries
- Uploaded artwork should be at least **300 DPI** for best quality
- Accepted file types: **JPEG (preferred), PNG, or PDF**

Rules and Eligibility



MAIL SUBMISSION

Send physical artwork to:

Wired to Create Student Art Contest
11805 Pennsylvania St.
Carmel, IN 46032

- A completed printed **Entry Form** must be included with mailed artwork.
- Please ensure the students' **name, grade level, and email** is written on each piece of artwork.
- Physical artwork must **not exceed 11×17 inches**.
- 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 **May 2027**.
- Indiana Electric Cooperatives is not responsible for artwork lost, damaged, or delayed during shipping.

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.
- Artwork previously submitted in past contests is not eligible.
- 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.

Deadline: All entries must be submitted online or postmarked by March 5, 2027.

Key dates

August 3, 2026 – Contest opens; entry forms available

March 5, 2027 – Submission deadline; all student entries due

March 2027 – Judging period; entries reviewed by grade division

Early April 2027 – Winner notification via phone and email

Judging and selection

Students will be judged in four grade divisions:

K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

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

Artwork be evaluated based on:

- Creativity and originality
- Artistic skill and effort
- How well the artwork represents the theme
- 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 **spring 2027**.

All judging decisions are final.

Awards and recognition

Artwork will be evaluated within the following grade divisions:

K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12.

GRADE DIVISION

WINNERS – **12 winning artworks** will be selected (three per grade division). Within each grade division, the following awards will be presented:

- **1st place:** \$200 recognition check and a ribbon
- **2nd place:** \$100 recognition check and a ribbon
- **3rd place:** \$50 recognition check and a ribbon

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HONORABLE MENTION

A select number of additional entries in each grade division may be recognized as **Honorable Mentions**. Honorable Mention recipients will receive a recognition ribbon.

BEST OF SHOW

A **Best of Show** award will be selected from among the first place winners and will receive an additional **\$100 recognition**.

Notification of winners

Only first, second, and third place winners from each grade division will be notified. Upon notification, winners will be provided instructions on how to receive their award and recognition check.

If the student is not contacted by the end of April 2027, the artwork was not selected.

Indiana Electric Cooperatives will notify winners by email and phone using the contact information provided on the entry form. Results will also be published at goiec.org/artcontest.

Originality guidelines and 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.
- Digital artwork and photographs are accepted; however, submissions created or significantly altered using artificial intelligence (AI) are not eligible for submission.

Indiana Electric Cooperatives 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, Indiana Electric Cooperatives 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 and usage rights

All artwork and reproduction rights become the property of Indiana Electric Cooperatives 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 contact **Karlee Gable** at 765.228.1514 or kgable@indianaec.org.