

Take It Outside Art Contest

Sponsored by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Contest Description

Iowa is rich in tradition and abundant with wonderful natural resources. There are a lot of fun activities you, your friends, and family can experience together – camping, hiking, riding bikes, climbing trees, jumping in mud puddles, and creating snow angels. Natural resources-based activities -- such as hunting, fishing, trapping, camping, boating, target shooting, and wildlife-watching contribute \$4.3 billion to Iowa's economy and connect people with nature.

Use your artistic skills to create an image that expresses what you like to do when you "Take It Outside," and encourages others to get outside too. Winning entries will receive prizes and grants for outdoor experiences. Winning entries will be used for upcoming promotions (e.g., banners, pull up displays, written reports, Outreach Trailer Wraps) and displayed at the DNR building during the Iowa State Fair. All entries will be posted on our website and Facebook® page and displayed at district DNR offices/hatcheries.

Theme

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR) proudly celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, so your artwork should also show how WSFR allows all of us to "Take it outside." WSFR funds come from special taxes on hunting and fishing equipment and related items. These funds go to state agencies like the Iowa DNR to provide/improve public lands and waters for recreation, improve habitat for fish and wildlife, and to fund research as well as hunting, fishing and conservation education programs. Iowans of all ages enjoy more outdoor recreation opportunities thanks to WSFR.

Some specific projects funded by WSFR include boat ramps, stream access, prairie restoration and other plantings for wildlife, stocking and management of fish and wildlife species, fishing jetties, archery and shooting ranges, and others. For more information about specific activities and projects funded by WSFR, visit our web site: www.iowadnr.gov and enter the search term, "wildlife and sport fish restoration."

Eligibility

- Iowa K-12 public or accredited nonpublic school students.
- Each school can submit up to 3 entries per judging category.

Awards/Recognition

Each school that submits entries to the state competition will be entered in a drawing for free outdoor recreation equipment – rods and reels, life jackets, and more.

The school that submits the winning entry in each judging category will receive a grant (total of 6 grants awarded) for a natural resources-based recreation experience at a local outdoor recreation area.).

- Major focus of activities must be outdoor, natural resources based recreation
- "Local outdoor recreation area" can be a state park, lake, forest, river, etc. up to 50 miles from the school
- Funds are limited to \$5 per participating student (up to 100 students) and must be used for transportation and/or programming costs
- Limit one grant per school

Each student submitting an entry will receive a Certificate of Participation.

First place entries in each judging category will receive an adventure backpack (including exploration and/or outdoor recreation supplies). Second and third place entries, as well as those judged to demonstrate best use of theme, best use of color, and to be most creative will also be recognized.

Judging Categories

Category I – Kindergarten-Grade 2 (hand-drawn)

Category II – Grades 3-5 (hand-drawn)

Category III – Grades 6-8 (hand-drawn)

Category IV – Grades 6-8 (computer generated)

Category V – Grades 9-12 (hand-drawn)

Category VI – Grades 9-12 (computer generated)

Entry Requirements

- All entries must include completed entry/release form.
- All artwork must be original work.
- Acceptable media are paint, pencil, markers, ink, crayon, chalk or pastel, and computer generated art.
- Drawing must be created on an 8 ½ x 11 or 11 x 14 single sheet of white paper.
- Do not mat, mount, laminate, frame or fold artwork.

To Enter:

Entries must be mailed flat or rolled in a tube – no folding, please! Mail to the Aquatic Education Program, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 2473 160th Road, Guthrie Center, IA 50115. Please mail all entries from the same school together in one envelope (or several, if needed).

Entry Deadline

All entries must be postmarked by March 1, 2012. Late entries will not be considered.

Judging Criteria:

The following criteria will be used to review and select the winning entries:

- Portrayal of theme (including but not limited to what you like to do when you “Take It Outside” and incorporating how WSFR projects and activities make it possible for you to “take it outside” in Iowa’s great natural areas.)
- Creative expression
- Originality
- Visual appeal
- Artistic merit

A panel of independent jurors will judge entries. The judging panel has not yet been chosen. Judges will be selected by of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. All decisions of the panel are final.

Winner Notification:

Judging will be completed by March 15, 2012. Submitting teacher of the winning entry will be notified via email.

If you have any questions about the Contest, contact the Aquatic Education Program at 641/747-2200 or by email AquaticEd_Info@dnr.iowa.gov.

Take It Outside Art Contest Entry Form

Judging Categories (Check One)

<input type="checkbox"/> Category I: K- 2 (hand-drawn)	<input type="checkbox"/> Category III: 6-8 (hand-drawn)	<input type="checkbox"/> Category V: 9-12 (hand-drawn)
<input type="checkbox"/> Category II: 3-5 (hand-drawn)	<input type="checkbox"/> Category IV: 6-8 (computer)	<input type="checkbox"/> Category VI: 9-12 (computer)

School: _____ Teacher: _____

Teacher's Email Address: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) ____ - _____

Student's Name: _____

Grade: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Entry Title: _____

I hereby certify that this poster was created entirely by the student above and is the student's original artwork. I agree that it may be offered for public display or publication at some time during or after the contest. I understand that this poster becomes the property of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and may be reproduced. The only information that will be released is the student's name, grade and hometown.

Signature of Student

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Print Name

Print Name

Please attach this form to the back of each poster.

