

The 23rd annual



Kids' Fish Art Contest

Ready to make a splash with your creativity?

Grades 4 - 12

Submission deadline: January 2nd, 2026

Create artwork of a largemouth bass or splake

Last year's winners!



Dear teachers,

Welcome to your guide to the **23rd annual Kids' Fish Art Contest**.

Are you ready to help your students learn about Ontario fish species and show off their artistic talents?

Ontario students are invited to enter. This free annual contest lets them show off their creativity and learn about Ontario's fish and their habitats.

In this document, you will find:

- a step by step guide to entering the contest
- contest details
- your classroom poster (first page)
- featured fish facts poster

Last year's winners included talented students — Maya J. from Oakville (Grades 4-6), Naomi C. from Markham (Grades 7-9), Raquel W. from Markham (Grades 10-12). Each winner received a fishing prize pack.

The final date to submit artwork is **January 2nd**. We look forward to seeing your students make a splash with their creativity as they dive into the aquatic world of Ontario's fish species!

Thank you for your interest in participating in Ontario's 23rd annual Kids' Fish Art Contest!

Sincerely,

The Fish and Wildlife Marketing Team

Questions?

Contact FWMarketing@ontario.ca

Contest steps

Select, learn, create!

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Contest launch: **October 15th**.

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Put up the poster and invite students to enter.

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Students choose between a largemouth bass and a splake.

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Students learn about their selected fish e.g., habitat, colour of scales, average size.

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Students create their 8.5 x 11" artwork. Excluding digital art, any medium or technique of their choosing is allowed. Artwork must not exceed ¼" in total thickness.

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Teachers download, print and handout entry form from ontario.ca/FishArtContest.

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Ensure all forms have a parent or guardians' signatures.

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Mail in all artwork and signed forms by no later than **January 2nd**. Must be post marked by this date.

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Winners announced March 2026.

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Contest details

Eligibility

The contest is open to residents of Ontario who are currently:

- in Grades 4-12
- attending elementary, secondary or homeschool

Prizes

Winners will each receive a fishing prize pack and tickets to the Toronto Sportmen's Show during **March 2026**.

Artwork requirements

The artwork must highlight the chosen fish species in its natural habitat. All artwork must be the contestant's original, hand-made creation. Photographs, tracing and computer-generated artwork will not be accepted. You may use the medium or technique of your choosing such as, acrylics, oil, watercolour, crayon, pencil crayon, markers, collage or printmaking. Artworks must not exceed ¼" in total thickness and 8.5 x 11" in size. No lettering, signatures or initials may appear on the front of the design.

Submitting your work

The entry form and artwork submission must be postmarked and mailed to the address provided in the entry form by no later than January 2nd (late or email entries will not be accepted). Entry forms must be completed, signed by a parent guardian and attached to the artwork. Artwork will not be returned. Teachers or guardians may submit one envelope of multiple submissions from their students or individual submissions can be made.

Announcing the winners

One winner will be selected by a panel of judges for each grade category (Grades 4-6, 7-9, 10-12). The 3 winners will be contacted by March 2026. All winning entries will be displayed online at ontario.ca/FishArtContest.

The ministry retains all winning entries. By entering the contest, you consent to the use of your artwork by the ministry for promotional use after the contest closing date.

Contest details

Judging criteria

Artwork entries will be judged based on the following criteria:

Artistic expression: judges will evaluate how well the artwork demonstrates the principles of art — balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, repetition, rhythm, and unity.

Fish anatomy: judges will assess the accuracy and detail of the fish's anatomy depicted in the artwork.

Accurate habitat: judges will examine how accurately the artwork represents the fish's natural habitat.

Judging process

A panel of Fish and Wildlife Program staff will evaluate submissions and select the top artworks for each grade group using the judging criteria. The judges' selections account for 75% of the total score. The remaining 25% of the score will come from a public Facebook vote of the top 5 artworks from each grade group. The artwork with the highest combined score will win their respective grade group.

Thank you for considering this contest and inviting your students to participate and learn more about Ontario's fish and wildlife.

Questions?

Contact FWMarketing@ontario.ca

Featured fish facts



Largemouth Bass

Habitat preferences:

- Prefers warm water areas with lots of weeds.

Size:

- 25-55 centimetres (10-22 inches) and 0.25-2.5 kilograms (0.5-5.5 pounds).

Learn more at:

ontario.ca/page/largemouth-bass

Featured fish facts



Splake

Habitat preferences:

- Prefers deep rocky cool waters.

Size:

- 25-46 centimetres (10-18 inches) and 0.45-1.35 kilograms (1-3 pounds).

Learn more at:

ontario.ca/page/splake