Dear teachers,

Welcome to your guide to the **24th 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
- classroom poster (next page)
- featured fish facts posters

The final date to submit artwork is **January 2, 2027**. 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 24th annual Kids' Fish Art Contest!

Sincerely,

The Fish and Wildlife Marketing Team

Contact FWMarketing@ontario.ca.

The 24th annual

Kids' Fish Art Contest

Ready to make a splash with your creativity?

Submission deadline: January 2, 2027
Create artwork of a walleye or northern pike

Last year's winners!

Alex C.
Grades 4-6



Burlington

Arianna C.
Grades 7-9



East York

Lydia J.
Grades 10-12



Mississauga

Win a $200 SAIL gift card!

SAIL

ontario.ca/FishArtContest

FISH and WILDLIFE

Ontario

Contest steps

Select, learn, create!

1. Contest launch: **October 6, 2026.** ☑
2. Put up the poster and invite students to enter. ☐
3. Students choose between a walleye and a northern pike. ☐
4. Students learn about their selected fish e.g., habitat, colour of scales, average size. ☐
5. Students create their 8.5 x 11" artwork. Excluding digital art, any medium or technique of their choice is allowed. Artwork must not exceed ¼" in total thickness. ☐
6. Download, print and hand out entry form from ontario.ca/FishArtContest. ☐
7. Ensure all forms have a parents' or guardians' signatures. ☐
8. Mail in all artwork and signed forms no later than **January 2, 2027**. Must be postmarked by this date. ☐
9. Winners announced March 2027. ☐

Contest details

Eligibility

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

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

Prizes

Three winners will each receive a $200 SAIL gift card, redeemable in-store or online, plus tickets to the March 2027 Toronto Sportsmen's Show.

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 choice, 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 2, 2027 (late or email entries will not be accepted). Entry forms must be completed, signed by a parent or 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 2027. All winning entries will be displayed online at ontario.ca/FishArtContest.

The ministry retains all winning entries. By entering the contest, students consent to the use of their 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.

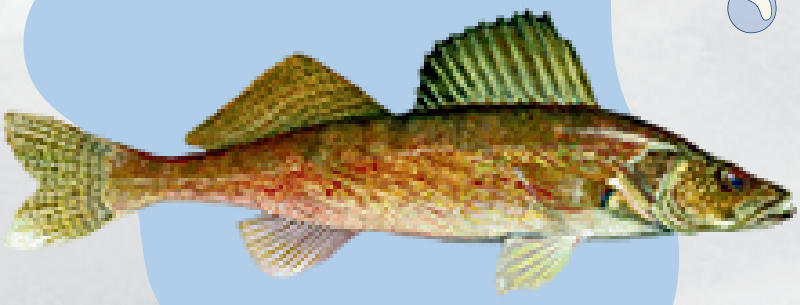
Judging process

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.

Contact FWMarketing@ontario.ca.

Featured fish facts



Walleye

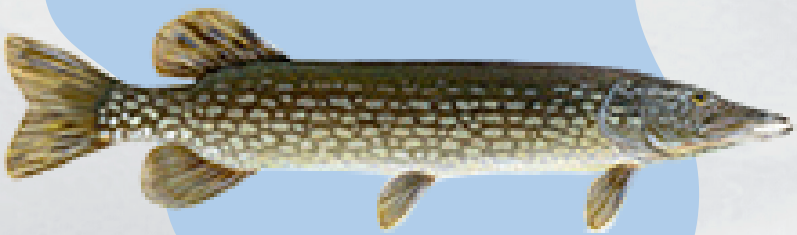
Habitat preferences:

- From cold, clear water to warm, weedy and stained water.

Typical size:

- 35.5–58.4 centimetres (14–23 inches) and 0.68–1.36 kilograms (1.5–3 pounds).

Featured fish facts



Northern Pike

Habitat preferences:

- Vegetated bays, creek mouths and shoals of lakes where they can ambush prey.

Typical size:

- 45–75 centimetres (18–30 inches) and 0.9–4.3 kilograms (2–9.5 pounds).