



Missionary Childhood Association Annual National Christmas Artwork Contest

Announcing the 2023-2024 Missionary Childhood Association (MCA) National Christmas Artwork Contest! Twenty-four winners will be selected in this national competition, which includes two grand-prize winners.

All national winners receive a commemorative plaque; grand-prize winners will have their artwork appear as the official Christmas card of the National Office of the Pontifical Mission Societies. Winners are celebrated each December.

National contest winners will be notified in late spring 2024 and announced to Catholic media in fall 2024.

TO ENTER, MAIL entries to: Office for the Missions, 1615 W. Washington Street, Springfield, IL 62702

- Diocesan entries must be postmarked, or dropped off at our mission office, no later than January 31, 2024.
- Each mailed entry (drawing) MUST be accompanied by an official entry form.
- The form should be attached to the artwork with tape or glue stick.
- DO NOT USE LIQUID GLUE OR STAPLE ENTRY FORM TO ARTWORK. DON'T FOLD ARTWORK! PLEASE WRITE THE STUDENT'S FIRST AND LAST NAME ON THE BACK OF THE ARTWORK IN LEAD PENCIL, SHOULD THE ENTRY FORM BECOME DETACHED.
- All entries submitted for the national competition become the property of the MCA national office, which reserves the right to depict all or part of the selected illustrations. It is not possible for the national office to offer any compensation for entries or to return them.

ARTWORK SPECIFICATIONS

- Artwork must be depicted on an 8.5" x 11" **horizontal** sheet of WHITE paper — no construction or lined paper. White card stock is okay.
- There should be a ¼" white border at the edges.
- Students must illustrate one of the subjects listed under the heading "Subjects."
- Acceptable media includes crayons, pastels, markers or watercolor paints. PLEASE —NO LEAD OR COLOR PENCILS.
- Artwork must be the child's own. Tracings and direct copies of other art cannot be considered. Students selected as finalists will be asked to validate the originality of their artwork.
- Artwork should not be signed on the front.
- Artwork that does not conform to the guidelines will not be considered.

SUBJECTS

- The Nativity (a manger scene, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, animals)
- Three Wise Men (presentation of gifts or following the star)
- Shepherds (with sheep, in fields, seeing the angel, or visiting the manger)
- Mother and Child (Mary with her infant son)
- Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem
- Newborn Jesus in manger
- The Angel Gabriel

HELPFUL HINTS

- Use a lot of eye-catching color. Bolder colors reproduce best. Lightly colored artwork will not show up well if reduced.
- Be careful to erase or cover pencil outlines.
- Do not include text or lettering on the drawing.
- Fill up most of the page, being careful not to let the main parts of the drawing get too close to the edges of the paper.
- Make sure facial features on people and animals are bold (e.g. nose, eyes, lips, etc.) so they will reproduce well.

Please note: Due to the volume of entries received, we are not able to personally acknowledge entries.



Entry Form (Please print or type)

Student Name: _____

CHECK ONE: Boy Girl

CHECK ONE: Catholic School Parish RE/CCD Home School

Name of School or RE/CCD and Grade:

Grade: _____

Name of Principal, RE Director or Teacher:

School or Parish Address:

School or Parish Phone Number: _____

(Arch)Diocese: _____

Student's Home Address (as of September 2023):

Parent / Guardian Name:

Student's Daytime Telephone Number: _____

E-mail address: _____