



2025 Wild Things Youth Art Contest and Exhibition Rules and Entry Form

Contest Rules

Entrants must be between the ages of 5 and 18 as of September 24, 2025.

Art Categories are: K - 3rd grade, 4th - 6th grade, 7th - 9th grade and 10th - 12th grade.

Only one entry per person is accepted.

Artwork that has been entered in a previous year may not be re-entered.

Artwork must be: Original, recent creation, **matted** and not computer generated, scanned, nor traced.

Artwork must not be: framed or have name, initials, signature or a title on the front of the artwork.

Please Note: Velcro will be affixed to the back of the entries for hanging on a fabric panel during the annual Wild Things celebration on October 11, 2025.

Subject matter must represent **native** Louisiana wildlife, which is wildlife that is indigenous to Louisiana Wildlife Refuges (plants, animals, landscapes and any combination of these). Entries will be automatically disqualified if they depict exotic or invasive species (nutria, water hyacinth, etc.).

Size: Artwork must be at least 8 ½" x 11" matted and may not exceed 20" x 24," matted.

Categories

The two prize categories are **Drawing and Painting**.

If you mix mediums, you must classify your entry as one or the other.

If you use oil pastels, you must clearly indicate your medium as drawing or painting.

Entry Deadline

Deadline for entry is Wednesday, September 24, 2025 by 4:00 PM.

Mail Entries to:

Art Contest /U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
61389 Hwy 434
Lacombe, LA 70445

Entrants are responsible for picking up their art by 4:00 PM on Friday, November 7, 2025. After this time, art will become the property of the USFWS. Please make arrangements with coordinator Becky Larkins to pick up your artwork, this will be by appointment only.

For more information, contact Becky Larkins at 985/882-2025 or email rebecca_larkins@fws.gov

This form must be COMPLETELY filled out and AFFIXED to the back of the Entry to be accepted.

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Name _____

Age as of September 24, 2025: _____ Grade Level: _____

Medium (Circle One): Drawing OR Painting

Title (Required): _____

Type of Specie(s) and/or Habitats Portrayed:

Name of School: _____ School Phone #: _____

Art Teacher Name: _____

Art Teacher Email: _____

Art Teacher Phone #: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Parent Phone #(s): _____ Parent Email(s): _____

Artist's Statement: Please state why you chose your subject matter and one thing about it that you appreciate or that inspires you.

How did you find out about the Wild Things Youth Art Contest?

Have you entered before? Circle One: Yes OR No

Wild Things 2024 Youth Art Contest

This is a list of some of the commonly found native plant and animal species of the Southeast Louisiana Refuges.

Trees:

Loblolly Pine, Slash Pine, Spruce Pine, Longleaf Pin, Swamp Chestnut, Live Oak, Nuttall Oak, Red Oak, Turkey Oak, Water Oak, White Oak, Bald Cypress, Pond Cypress, Black Tupelo, Swamp Tupelo, Black Willow, Beech, Honey Locust, Magnolia, Maple, Sugarberry

Other Plants:

Louisiana Blue Iris, Spanish Moss, Black Rush, Spartina, Smilax, Baccharus, American Beautyberry, Southern Bayberry, Black Mangrove, Trumpet Vine, Pickerel Weed, Bulls Tongue, Water Lilly, Palmetto, Wax Myrtle, Wild Azalea, Button Bush, Yaupon Holly, Sundew, Yellow Pitcher Plant

Animals:

White-tailed deer, Louisiana Black Bear, Red-cockaded woodpecker, Bobcat, Raccoon, Opossum, Coyote, Red Fox, River Otter, Grey Squirrel, Mexican Free-tailed Bat, Big Brown Bat, Fox Squirrel, Green Anole, Gopher Tortoise, Kemps-Ridley Sea Turtle, Bald Eagle, Prothonotary Warbler, Pileated Woodpecker, American Wood Duck, Great Blue Heron, Mallard, Golden-silk Orb Weaver, Wolf Spider, Damselfly, Pond Skipper Dragonfly

Habitat Types:

Salt Marsh, Freshwater Marsh, Brackish Marsh, Bayous, Barrier Islands, Cypress Breaks, Sea Grass Bed, Beach, Swamps, River Basins, Bottomland Hardwoods, Pine Flatwood Forest/Pine Savannah.