



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refuges Complex

985/882-2000

WILD THINGS YOUTH ART CONTEST



2025 Wild Things Youth Art Contest Best of Show
by Jordan LeGaux titled "Grey Fox"



2025 Wild Things Youth Art Contest
artwork by various youth artists.



2026 Wild Things Youth Art
Contest made possible by
generous support by the
Friends of Louisiana Wildlife
Refuges, Inc.

Contest Rules:

Entrants must be between the ages of 5 - 18 yrs. as of September 25, 2026.

Only 1 entry per person.

Artwork must be original, recent work that is not computer generated, scanned or traced. Only drawing and paint mediums can be used and must be specified on entry form.

Subject matter must represent **NATIVE** Louisiana wildlife found on a Louisiana National Wildlife Refuge. **No exotic or invasive species.**

Artwork entered in a previous year cannot be re-entered.

Artwork MUST BE matted. Artwork must NOT be framed or have name, initials or title written on front of artwork.

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

Entry Deadline: Wed., September 25, 2026

Artwork must be at least 8 1/2" x 11" but cannot exceed 20" x 24" Drawing/Painting mediums only.

Entries may be mailed to:

Art Contest/USFWS

61389 Hwy 434

Lacombe, LA 70445

Drop off by appt. only. Contact Ranger Becky at 985/882-2025 or rebecca_larkins@fws.gov

CALLING YOUNG ARTISTS!

Categories for Judging: K - 3rd, 4th - 6th, 7th - 9th and 10th - 12th grades. Ages 5 - 18 yrs.



2026 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 25, 2026.

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 Saturday, October 10, 2026 and for the Wild Things Youth Art Exhibition & Awards ceremony to be hosted on Saturday, October 17, 2026.

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 either a Drawing or Painting.

If you use oil pastels, you must clearly indicate your medium as Drawing or Painting.

Entry Deadline

Deadline for entry is Friday, September 25, 2026 by 4:00 PM.

Mail Entries to:

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

After the Wild Things Youth Art Exhibition & Awards ceremony on Saturday, October 17, 2026 artwork may be reclaimed by the artist or designated person. 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

Wild Things 2026 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.

2026 Wild Things Youth Art Contest Entry Form

This form must be COMPLETELY filled out and AFFIXED to the back of art entry in order to be accepted

Artist Name: _____ Age (as of Sept. 25, 2026): _____ Grade Level: _____

Artist Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Parent Name(s): _____ Parent Email(s): _____

Parent Phone #(s): _____

School Information (select one): Public/Private School -OR- Homeschool -OR- Other

Name of School: _____

Art Teacher Name: _____ Art Teacher Email: _____

Art Teacher Phone #: _____ School Phone #: _____

Art Entry Information

Art Medium (select one): Drawing -OR- Painting

Title of Artwork: _____

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