

# EARTH DAY

## Contest Announcement • 2026 Poster Contest

### Announcing the Contest

DEP invites students across Florida to participate in the **2026 Earth Day Poster Contest: “See the Sea Floor: Discover Florida Beneath the Waves.”** This year’s theme highlights the [Florida Seafloor Mapping Initiative](#), a statewide effort to create complete, modern, high-resolution maps of Florida’s coastal seafloor. The poster contest officially launches April 1, 2026 and all submissions are due April 22, 2026.

Students may submit original drawings, paintings or digital artwork using any medium that highlights the Florida Seafloor Mapping Initiative.

### Students Are Encouraged to Illustrate

- Florida’s underwater landscapes.
- Marine life and coastal ecosystems.
- Discoveries revealed through modern seafloor mapping technology.

### Who Can Participate

All students in grades 4-12 who reside in Florida are invited to participate. This includes those enrolled in public, charter and private schools, as well as homeschooled students across the state.

### Accepted Artwork

- Original drawings, paintings or digital artwork.
- Any artistic medium is welcome.
- Discoveries revealed through modern seafloor mapping technology.

### Recognition

- Winners are selected within each of DEP’s [six district regions](#). For more information about selection criteria, please see [page five](#).
- District winners will receive an Aquatic Preserves reusable water bottle and advance to a statewide competition.
- One statewide grand prize winner will receive a full-size printed poster of their artwork.



### Contest Timeline

Contest opens: ..... April 1, 2026

Submissions due: ..... Earth Day: April 22, 2026

Winners Announced: ..... April 30, 2026



Learn more at [FloridaDEP.gov/EarthDay](https://FloridaDEP.gov/EarthDay)

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## How to Enter • 2026 Poster Contest

### How to Enter

Students may enter DEP's Earth Day Poster Contest by submitting their artwork either by email, mail or physically dropping off their artwork and completed entry form (page three) to their [local DEP district office](#).

### Find Your Local DEP District Office:

District	Counties	Office Address	Email Address
Northwest District	Bay, Calhoun, Escambia, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Holmes, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, Wakulla, Walton, Washington	160 West Government Street, Suite 308 Pensacola, FL 32502 or 2420 Jenks Avenue, Suite 4-B Panama City, FL 32405	<a href="mailto:Arielle.Glass@FloridaDEP.gov">Arielle.Glass@FloridaDEP.gov</a>
Northeast District	Alachua, Baker, Bradford, Clay, Columbia Dixie, Duval, Flagler, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Nassau, Putnam, St. Johns, Suwannee, Taylor, Union	8800 Baymeadows Way West, Suite 100 Jacksonville, FL 32256	<a href="mailto:Kathryn.Craver@FloridaDEP.gov">Kathryn.Craver@FloridaDEP.gov</a>
Central District	Brevard, Indian River, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, Volusia	3319 Maguire Blvd., Suite 232 Orlando, FL 32803	<a href="mailto:Sarah.Fayed@FloridaDEP.gov">Sarah.Fayed@FloridaDEP.gov</a>
Southwest District	Citrus, Hardee, Hernando, Hillsborough Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk	13051 North Telecom Parkway Temple Terrace, FL 33637	<a href="mailto:Brian.Humphreys@FloridaDEP.gov">Brian.Humphreys@FloridaDEP.gov</a>
Southeast District	Broward, Martin, Miami-Dade, Monroe, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, St. Lucie	3301 Gun Club Road, MSC7210-1 West Palm Beach, FL 33406	<a href="mailto:Megan.Rutter@FloridaDEP.gov">Megan.Rutter@FloridaDEP.gov</a>
South District	Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades Hendry, Highlands, Lee, Sarasota	2295 Victoria Avenue, Suite 364 Fort Myers, FL 33901	<a href="mailto:Chip.Turner@FloridaDEP.gov">Chip.Turner@FloridaDEP.gov</a>



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## Official Entry Form • 2026 Poster Contest

**Please print neatly!**

**Tape this form to the back of each entry.**

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### Entry Form

#### Please note:

Your students' entries are a public record under Florida law. Upon submission, they will become the property of DEP and may be used for promotional purposes, shared on the department's social media accounts and/or included in announcements and press releases.

Student's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Poster: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Email: \_\_\_\_\_



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## Contest Rules and Guidelines • 2026 Poster Contest

### Contest Rules and Guidelines:

- All students in grades 4-12 who reside in Florida are invited to participate. This includes those enrolled in public, charter and private schools, as well as homeschooled students across the state.
- There is no entry fee.
- One entry per student.
- All entries must be original student works.
- Required poster size is 11 inches wide by 8.5 inches tall (the size of standard printer paper).
- All entries must have a complete and legible entry form attached to the back of the poster (please tape the form to the back — no staples).
- Student's name should NOT appear on the front of the poster.
- Posters can be created using poster paints, watercolor, color pencil, pastels, oil, crayon, pencil, charcoal, markers and original digital art. (Please note: Pastels, pencil and charcoal should be sprayed with a fixative to prevent smearing.)

### Winner Selection Criteria:

1. Artistic Merit (design, use of color and layout).
2. Poster Message should relate to DEP's theme: "See the Sea Floor: Discover Florida Beneath the Waves."
3. Originality (unique, creative design).
4. Neatness (free of spelling and grammatical errors and/or stray marks). District contest winners will receive an Aquatic Preserves reuseable water bottle. State winners will also receive a print of their poster.

Submissions are due April 22, 2026. Three winners will be selected from each district. A state winner from each age group will be announced April 30, 2026. Contest winners will be contacted by April 30, 2026, to distribute prize packages.

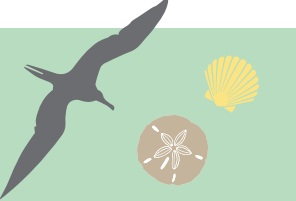


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## Poster Contest Scoring Rubric • 2026 Poster Contest

	Fair = 2 points	Good = 3 points	Excellent = 4 points
Relevance/ Message	<p><b>Fair (2)</b> The poster delivers a message but could be better organized to be clearer.</p>	<p><b>Good (3)</b> The poster succeeds at delivering a clear and concise message.</p>	<p><b>Excellent (4)</b> The poster shows exceptional skill in delivering a clear and concise message.</p>
Creativity	<p><b>Fair (2)</b> The poster is readable but is not original in its imagery.</p>	<p><b>Good (3)</b> The poster displays some degree of originality in how it shows the message visually.</p>	<p><b>Excellent (4)</b> The poster displays exceptional originality in visually organizing the message.</p>
Clarity and Skill	<p><b>Fair (2)</b> The poster is attractive though it is smeared or blurry, making it harder to read.</p>	<p><b>Good (3)</b> The poster shows skill with design, layout and neatness with attention to detail.</p>	<p><b>Excellent (4)</b> The poster shows exceptional skill with design, layout and neatness with much attention to detail.</p>



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