

STUDENT ARTWORK

We highly encourage you to enter your students' artwork online at www.pimacountyfair.com. Get involved!

PRICE OF ENTRIES

\$1.00 per Student

Contest:
This is Arizona,
Treasures of the Desert



“This isn’t just any art contest—it’s your chance to tell us, through your student’s art, what Arizona means to them. Whether it’s a favorite place, a family tradition, a desert animal, or their own creative take on ‘A is for Arizona’, this theme says: ‘This Is Arizona—your students’ way!’”

CONTEST PROGRAM GOAL FOR TEACHERS & STUDENTS

The goal of this program is to help students view the desert not as empty, but as vibrant and full of life, color, and meaning. Through their artwork, students are encouraged to highlight both well-known places and the often-overlooked details—like a lizard under a rock, the patterns in canyon walls, or the quiet stillness before a monsoon.

This project invites students to reflect on their personal connection to Arizona—its landscapes, people, culture, and colors—and to express that connection creatively. Whether through painting, drawing, collage, or mixed media, students will explore what Arizona means to them and shares their unique perspective with the community.

DIVISIONS BY GRADE LEVEL

ELEMENTARY

200 PRE SCHOOL
201 KINDERGARDEN
202 1ST GRADE
203 2ND GRADE
204 3RD GRADE
205 4TH GRADE
206 5TH GRADE

MIDDLE

207 6TH GRADE
208 7TH GRADE
209 8TH GRADE

HIGH SCHOOL

210 9TH GRADE
211 10TH GRADE
212 11TH GRADE
213 12TH GRADE

CLASS

DESCRIPTION

800	Arts/Crafts Contest - This is Arizona, Treasures of the Desert
801	Ceramics Contest - This is Arizona, Treasures of the Desert
802	Creative Writing Contest - This is Arizona, Treasures of the Desert
803	Decorative Rock Contest - This is Arizona, Treasures of the Desert
804	Decorative Shoe Contest - This is Arizona, Treasures of the Desert
805	Drawings Contest - This is Arizona, Treasures of the Desert Contest
806	Letter A Treasure Box Contest -This is Arizona, Treasures of the Desert
807	Paints Contest - This is Arizona, Treasures of the Desert
808	Photography Contest - This is Arizona, Treasures of the Desert
809	Collage Contest - This is Arizona, Treasures of the Desert
810	Weaving Contest - This is Arizona, Treasures of the Desert

Awards per Class and Grade level

1st place \$50.00

2nd place \$25.00

3rd place \$15.00

Contest Ideas to Help You and Your Students Get Started

Creative Art Option: “A is for Arizona”

Design the letter “A” as your personal symbol for Arizona!

Use paint, collage, drawing, or sculpture to turn the letter “A” into a celebration of the desert’s beauty, culture, and hidden treasures.

Fun Ideas:

- Fill the “A” with Arizona images: cacti, sunsets, animals, or your favorite place
- Use textures: foil for copper, sandpaper for trails, or yarn for desert paths
- Turn it into a treasure box: include the **5 Cs of Arizona** (Copper, Cattle, Cotton, Citrus, and Climate).
- Hide desert surprises inside—bones, roots, fossils, or creatures!
- Show desert life: day vs. night or above vs. underground.

What to Think About:

- What makes Arizona special to you?
- What stories or secrets does the desert hold?
- What do people miss when they don’t look closely?

Perfect for:

- All ages and skill levels.
- Letter-based creativity.
- Exploring Arizona’s nature, culture, and colors.

Let your “A” shine with the heart of Arizona!

Contest Ideas to Help You and Your Students Get Started

Sunset Silhouettes – Paint a desert sunset with warm colors, then add cactus or animal silhouettes using black paper or paint.

Saguaro Selfies – Draw a big saguaro cactus and decorate it with personal touches, like arms holding things you love.

Desert Texture Rubbings – Use items like leaves, rocks, or sandpaper to make textured desert landscape art.

Wildlife Close-Ups – Focus on animals like the javelina, roadrunner, Gila monster, or cactus wren using pastels, paint, or collage.

Animal Tracks Art – Draw or stamp footprints with labels and fun facts about each animal.

Grand Canyon Layers – Use torn paper or watercolors to show the colorful rock layers of the canyon.

Antelope Canyon Flow Art – Create swirling rock patterns using brush or finger painting.

Cave Explorers – Draw an imaginary scene deep inside Kartchner Caverns.

Petroglyph Scratch Art – Use crayons and scratching tools on black paper to mimic ancient rock art.

Cowboy Collages – Combine rope, denim, or bandana fabric into fun Western-themed mixed media art.

Basket Weaving Art – Try paper weaving inspired by Tohono O’odham or Hopi basket designs.

Monsoon Madness – Paint a stormy desert scene with clouds, lightning, and rain using watercolor or sponges.

Day & Night Desert – Split a page in half to show the desert during the day vs. nighttime.

Starry Sky Mandalas – Inspired by Native astronomy, make circular art representing the night sky.

Favorite Local Spot – Draw or paint your favorite place in Arizona—maybe a park, mountain, or even grandma’s backyard!

Arizona Foods – Illustrate or sculpt local favorites like prickly pear candy, tamales, tortillas, or fry bread.

“I Am Arizona” Collage – Create a self-portrait surrounded by images that reflect your Arizona life.

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211 10TH GRADE
212 11TH GRADE
213 12TH GRADE

ART/CRAFTS

CLASS

DESCRIPTION

01	3D
02	Beadwork
03	Deco Mesh
04	Diorama
05	Feather
06	Gourds - Painted, Burned, etc.
07	Leather Craft Article - Hand Tooled, Sewn, etc.
08	Jewelry
09	Masks
10	Metalwork
11	Paper Mache
12	Perler Beads
13	Stained Glass
14	String / Yarn
15	Tie Dye or Batik
16	Tin Foil
17	Water Globes
18	Woodwork - Furniture & Small Projects
19	Woodwork - Whittled or Carved
20	Collage - Decoupage
21	Printmaking
22	Computer/Graphic art
23	Other - Art/Crafts

CERAMICS

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
24	Ceramic Article, Molded by Entrant
25	Ceramic Article, Pre - Molded
26	Fired, Hand - Molded Clay Article
27	Hand - Molded Clay Article
28	Plaster Craft Article
29	Other - Ceramics

CREATIVE WRITING

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
30	Essays
31	Memoirs
32	Poems
33	Short Biography
34	Short Skit or Play
35	Short Stories

DECORATIVE ROCK

The rock dimensions are: The largest can only be 6" X 6" and the smallest is 2 ½" X 2 ½". Take a rock and decorate it using paint, glitter, rhinestones, sequins, pearls, ribbon, flowers, etc. You can use any media that you choose.

CLASS DESCRIPTION

36	Animals / Insects
37	Holiday Decoration
38	Landscapes
39	Portrait / Faces
40	School Colors / Theme
41	Other - Decorative Rock

DECORATIVE SHOE

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
42	Collage Shoe
43	Dressy Shoe
44	School Colors / Theme
45	Southwestern Shoe
46	Sporty Shoe
47	Other - Decorative Shoe

DRAWINGS

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
48	3D
49	Chalk
50	Crayon Drawings
51	Etching
52	Graffiti
53	Ink, Pen & Colored Marker Drawings
54	Pencil Drawings
55	Other - Drawings

GARDENING

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
56	Mini Garden
57	Multiple Flowers
58	Potted Plant
59	Single Flower
60	Terrarium (plant / mini scene)
61	Vegetable Garden
62	Other - Gardening

PAINTS

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
63	3D
64	Acrylic/Oil
65	Airbrush
66	Melted Crayons
67	Mixed Media
68	Spray Paint
69	Tempera
70	Watercolor
71	Other - Paints

PHOTOGRAPHY

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
72	2D
73	3D
74	Black & White
75	Color
76	Geo Filters
77	Group Selfie
78	Mixed Media
79	Selfie
80	Snapchat Effects
81	Underwater
82	Other - Photography

SEWING AND NEEDLE CRAFT

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
83	Accessories or Novelty Articles Sewn by Entrant
84	Clothing Sewn by Entrant
85	Counted Cross-Stitch Article
86	Crewel Article
87	Crocheted Article
88	Embroidered Article
89	Hooked Article
90	Knitted Article
91	Needlepoint Article
92	Quilted Article (not to exceed 102x116)
93	Stuffed Toy
94	Other - Sewing and Needle Craft

SPECIAL PROJECT

CLASS	DESCRIPTION
95	3D Dooler Printing
96	Project Boards
97	Science Project
98	Farm Fun Art (Chicken, Cow, Horse, Rabbit, Etc.)
99	Other - Special Project

AWARDS AND RIBBONS

1st Blue Ribbon

2nd Red Ribbon

3rd White Ribbon

Best of Show \$25.00

Best of Class \$15.00

People's Choice \$30.00

Cash Awards: Cash awards will be given as cash vouchers. Teachers must collect these vouchers from the information desk and cash them at the Fair Office Cashier Window as soon as they are issued.

Cash vouchers must be redeemed no later than Monday, April 27, 2026.

Award Criteria:

Ribbons will only be awarded if the entry meets a standard of quality as determined by the judge. An entry must be deemed worthy to receive an award.

Judging System:

We use the Danish Judging System, where each entry is evaluated individually based on merit rather than in direct competition with others. All judging decisions are final.

Types of Judging:

Merit-Based Judging: Each piece is judged on its own merits according to set standards.

Competitive Judging: Only entries selected for Best of Class, Best of Show, Contests and People's Choice will be compared against other entries.

Best of Class Guidelines:

15 or More Entries: Eligible for Best of Class award with a monetary prize.

3 to 14 Entries: May be awarded Best of Class title, without a monetary prize.

Fewer than 3 Entries: Not eligible for Best of Class recognition.

This approach ensures that high-quality work is acknowledged in all categories while reserving prize funds for larger, more competitive divisions.

DROP OFF ARTWORK

Teachers can drop off and pick up artwork at the Old Pueblo Conference and Event Center, Pima County Fairgrounds 11300 S. Houghton Rd. Tucson, AZ 85747.

Yes, someone else can drop off or pick up your artwork on your behalf. Just make sure they have all the necessary details and any required Entry Tag to ensure a smooth drop-off and pick-up process.

Drop off Schedule:

Friday, April 3, 2026: 3pm - 6pm

Saturday, April 4, 2026: 10am - 2pm

PICK UP ARTWORK AND RIBBONS

Exciting News! You can now pick up your art and ribbons on the last day of the Fair.

Sunday, April 26, 2026: 1pm - 8pm (No drive-up access).

If you plan to pick up your artwork on Sunday, the last day of the fair, please note that an admission ticket and parking pass will still be required for each person to enter the fair and collect their artwork.

You will not be able to retrieve your artwork without these purchases.

Alternatively, you can pick up your artwork on the designated drive-up day listed below without needing to purchase an admission ticket.

PICKUP SCHEDULE:

Monday, April 27, 2026: 10am - 3pm (Drive-up access available).

PIMA COUNTY FAIR

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

FARMER JON'S LEARNING CENTER

Located inside **Old Pueblo Hall Conference and Event Center**, Farmer Jon's Learning Center is appropriate for all ages and provides an engaging way to learn about agriculture. Children can:

- "Pick" fruits and vegetables from the farm display
- "Milk" Maggie the cow
- Climb aboard a tractor
- Explore a live worm composting bin
- Touch real sheep wool and cow hide
- Enjoy baby chicks
- Explore our seed wagon

Learn about **Recycling Do's and Don'ts** and explore our **interactive greenhouse**, where students will sort and learn the difference between **waste, compost, and recyclable materials**.

4-H AND FFA LIVESTOCK BARNs

Step into the animal barns to meet livestock raised and cared for by local 4-H and FFA students. This is a great opportunity for students to learn about animal husbandry, responsibility, and agricultural science.

For more information, contact the **4-H Extension Office** at (520) 626-5161.

SCHOOL FIELD TRIP DAY – Friday, April 24, 2026, | 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Teachers may now sign up for our dedicated **School Field Trip Day** at the Pima County Fair!

Participating classrooms will receive the **STEAM Trail Activity Booklet**, where students embark on a fun and educational journey through **Science, Technology, Engineering, Art/Agriculture, and Mathematics**.

The trail begins with guiding questions and hints to explore areas such as **Old Pueblo Hall** and the **Livestock Barns**, where students will also meet 4-H and FFA livestock. Once they've completed the trail, students will be rewarded with a **Treasure Bag filled with goodies** for their efforts!

Visit www.PimaCountyFair.com for information and registration forms.

STUDENT ARTWORK ENTRY FORM TEACHERS COMPLETE THIS FORM

NAME OF SCHOOL: _____

NAME OF TEACHER: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY _____ AZ ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

EXCLUSIVE EXHIBITOR PASS OFFER:

This is a special offer not available to the public — it's only for those who submit student artwork to the Fair!

By entering artwork in the Student Art Contest, you'll become eligible to purchase up to two (2) Exhibitor Passes, each valid for all 11 days of the Pima County Fair.

EACH PASS INCLUDES:

Unlimited fair admission (\$13 value per day).

One FREE Main Gate Parking Pass (a value of \$8 per day – one per family/address).

Parking is good at the Main Gate only.

Limit: 2 Exhibitor Passes per exhibitor.

That's a total savings of up to \$206 if you attend multiple days — just for participating in our art program!

Don't miss out on this opportunity to showcase your creativity and save big while enjoying the Fair!

Checks or money orders payable to the Southwestern Fair Commission, Inc. (SWFC).

Cash is accepted.

STUDENT ART DROP-OFF & PICK-UP INFORMATION:

Artwork Drop-Off Times:

Friday, April 3, 2026, | 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Saturday, April 4, 2026, | 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Please make sure all the artwork is clearly labeled and delivered during the times listed above.

ARTWORK & RIBBON PICK-UP:

Sunday, April 26, 2026, | 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM  No drive-up access available.

Admission ticket and parking pass are required for each person entering the fairgrounds.

Drive-Up Pick-Up (No Admission Needed):

If you prefer not to enter the fair, we also offer a convenient drive-up pick-up day:

Monday, April 27, 2026, | 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM  Drive-up access available.

No admission or parking pass required.

I assume all risks of loss or damage to exhibits from point of delivery until release after the Fair and agree to abide by all stated rules and regulations.

Signature of Teacher _____

Date _____

NAME OF SCHOOL: _____
 NAME OF TEACHER: _____
 ADDRESS: _____ CITY _____ AZ ZIP _____
 EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ PHONE: _____

#	Division No.	Class No.	Title of Entry please print legibly the title will be displayed on the entry tag	Student Name	Student Age	Special Needs Y/N	Entry Fee
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EXHIBITOR PASSES

1 Ticket \$25.00 ____
 2 Tickets \$50.00 ____
 Total: ____