2012 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION GUIDELINES

Note: The competition is open to high school students only.

Artwork categories are as follows:
Paintings: (oil, acrylics, watercolor, etc.)
Drawings: (pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink, markers, etc.)
Collage: must be two dimensional
Prints: (lithographs, silkscreen, block prints)
Mixed media
Computer generated art
Photography

- **All artwork submitted MUST BE matted**
- **Framing is OPTIONAL (see Framing Guidelines)**
- **Write your full name and school in the bottom right hand corner on the BACK of your piece**
- **Each piece must be submitted with an accompanying release form. Please note the release form is printed on the front and back and both sides must be completed before submitting your artwork.**
- **DO NOT tape your release form to the back of your piece**

In order to allow artwork to hang in the Cannon Tunnel of the U.S. Capitol, the following restrictions are necessary:

1. All artwork must be only **two-dimensional**.
2. Each piece can be no larger than **28 inches by 28 inches** to the outside dimensions of the frame and cannot be more than **4 inches** in depth. Artwork must not weigh more than **15 lbs.**
3. The Student Release Form must be signed by the Teacher, Parent or Guardian (if the student is not 18) **AND** the student to certify the originality of the piece. **EACH** piece submitted must have an accompanying release form.

SUITABILITY GUIDELINES

The final decision regarding suitability for the exhibition in the Capitol will be made by a panel of qualified persons chaired by the Architect of the Capitol. While it is not the intent to censor any artwork, we do wish to avoid the situation of hanging artwork that is potentially controversial and inappropriate for display in the Capitol.

Artwork must adhere to the policy of the House Office Building Commission. In accordance with this policy, exhibits depicting subjects of contemporary political controversy or of a sensationalistic or gruesome nature are not allowed.

It is necessary that all artwork be reviewed by the panel chaired by the Architect of the Capitol and any portions not in consonance with the Commission's policy will be omitted from the exhibit.

FRAMING GUIDELINES

The overall winner of the competition is responsible for framing his or her winning entry as directed by the House Oversight and Standards of Official Conduct Committees.

- Framed work should be no larger than 28 inches high, 28 inches wide, and 4 inches deep including the outside dimensions of the frame.
- Artwork and frame must not weigh more than 15 lbs.
- Frames should be as simple and as sturdy as possible. Metal frames are recommended.
- Matting can enhance or detract from a work of art and should be carefully prepared.
- All work, except for oil paintings, should be protected by Plexiglas or glass.
- Plexiglas is better to use than glass over the artwork in order to avoid breakage.
- Use sturdy hangers. Two hooks should be attached at the top and at the right and the left sides of the back of the work in order to prevent the work from leaning forward or hanging unevenly.
- No "snap on" frames with glass are to be used. Since frames will be suspended by wire from overhead molding, please do not put wire between the hooks.
- Do not attach labels, ribbon, etc. to the front of the piece or underneath the glass or Plexiglas.
- If the artwork is abstract in design, please indicate on the backside which side is up.

*** In addition to an overall winner, Congressman McCarthy's judges select 1st, 2nd and 3rd Place winners in each category. These winners will have the option of hanging their artwork in his Washington, DC office for one year. Once the artwork is returned, the District staff will contact you to pick up your artwork. If you do not pick up your artwork within 30 days, it will be returned back to your high school teacher.