



## Fairfield's Earth Day Celebration Art Contest

### Special Artist Rules

#### **Student Eligibility:**

This division is an option for students with a disability as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Generally, rules and guidelines within the Special Artists Division are intended to ensure accessibility to the Fairfield's Earth Day Celebration Art Contest and are modeled after the guidelines outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

#### **Who qualifies as a disabled individual under the law?**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines an individual with a disability as a person who:

1. Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of that person;
2. Has a record of such an impairment; or
3. Is regarded as having such an impairment.

#### **Student Entry Process:**

Students who identify as having a disability have two ways to enter the Contest.

#### **Option 1.**

Enter in Traditional Grade Divisions: Qualifying students follow all arts category rules, and may not receive assistance other than that which is allowed for all children, but do receive accommodation to submit entries in the grade division most closely aligned to their functional abilities. They are recognized and awarded prizes as part of the general student population without regard to special needs or challenges.

**Grade Divisions:** Regardless of age, students with special needs may enter the Contest in the grade division most closely aligned to their functional abilities. The divisions are as follows:

- Primary: preschool – grade 2
- Intermediate: grades 3 – 5
- Middle School: grades 6 – 8
- High School: grades 9 – 12

#### **Option 2.**

Enter in Special Artist Division: Qualifying students entering this non-graded division create their own artwork, but may receive non-artistic accommodation and assistance from an adult.

- Parent or Guardian Signature: A parent or guardian signature will be required for all students entering the program in the Special Artist Division, regardless of the student's age.
- Judging Procedure and Awards: Special Artist entries will be judged with consideration for any limitations.

#### **Special Artist Accommodations and Guidelines:**

Special Artists should follow the general rules and guidelines outlined in the Arts Category Student Rules specific to their submissions, modified only by accommodations for individuals with disabilities. The accommodation, in general, should be both specific and limited to the student's disability.

**Allowable Accommodations:** Given the diverse range of physical and mental disabilities that exist, it would be impossible to outline specific accommodations for each and every disability, but the following provides a non-exhaustive list of allowable accommodations:

- The Special Artist Division will not be divided by age or traditional school grade level.
- Use of adaptive technology is allowed.
- All submissions must be solely created by the Special Artist. However, a parent, teacher or other adult may assist the Special Artist with typing, holding a camera, etc.

**Accommodations that are Not Allowed:** Individuals providing assistance to Special Artists may not, in any way, involve themselves in the actual artistic process by:

- Personally selecting a title for artwork.
- Writing, editing or interpreting a student's artist statement, story, poetry, or script.
- Choreographing a dance, composing music or writing lyrics.
- Drawing, painting or personally creating a visual arts submission; choosing a camera angle, etc.

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q. If a child's disabilities are such that his or her needs are handled in a therapeutic off-site school or via home schooling, can the child participate in the Earth Day Contest?**

**A.** All students may participate in Contest. A student may develop an entry in or outside of school.

**Q. Can a student with special needs enter the Contest as both a Special Artist and also in one of the traditional Grade Divisions?**

**A.** No. A student can enter in more than one arts category, but may only enter in one grade division.

**Q. Do Special Artist rules and guidelines apply to students who are gifted and talented?**

**A.** No, Special Artist rules and guidelines apply only to students with physical, cognitive and mental health disabilities as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

***Submit entry using Art Category instructions.***