



**Theme, Guidelines and
Selection Criteria
Student Art Calendar Contest
“Being Water Wise Is ...”
2026**



2026 THEME AND GUIDELINES

1. The theme of the 2026 student art calendar contest is **“Being Water Wise Is ...”** This means wise and efficient water use inside and outside of the home, at school, in the community, in business and industry, in agriculture, and in recreation. The importance of clean and reliable water to public health has been made even more clear over the past few years. Additionally, climate change is stressing Southern California’s water supplies and we need to adapt. This theme of water conservation and stewardship should be reflected in the artwork.
2. Agencies may submit up to five art pieces per grade category: elementary (K- 5), middle school (6-8), and high school (9-12), and no more than 15 entries total.
 - a. The submission deadline is **June 30, 2025**.
3. Metropolitan will only accept digital files of artwork. Upload artwork in a digital format to a **OneDrive Folder** setup **specifically for each agency**.
 - a. Artwork should be scanned with the image setting of 300 dpi (dots per inch), set to TIFF (Tag Image File Format). Files must have a minimum resolution of 240 pixels per inch (240 ppi) or 5 megapixels (5 MP) in landscape format. You may want to contact your graphic, printshop or engineering departments for assistance with high resolution scanning.
 - b. A Student Information Card (found at the end of this document) should clearly identify the associated art and be uploaded into your folder. The naming convention for the image should be: **StudentLastName-FirstName-Agency.tiff**.
 - c. Please ensure that all names (Student/Teacher/School) are spelled correctly!
4. The instructions for submitting your files are as follows:



- a. Contact [Brian Martz \(bmartz@mwdh2o.com\)](mailto:bmartz@mwdh2o.com) via email to request a customized **Link** for your agency.
 - b. Click on the **Link** to a “OneDrive” folder that has been setup specifically for your agency
 - c. Click “upload”
 - d. Click “files”
 - e. Select all images/documents to be uploaded
 - f. Upload
 - 1). Digital art file (student art pieces)
 - 2). Student Information Card
 - 3). Parent Approval form
 - g. Click “Open” at bottom right
 - h. All files are now uploaded into your folder
 - i. Notify [Brian Martz](mailto:bmartz@mwdh2o.com), via e-mail, that files have been uploaded
5. If you submit a photograph of your artwork please retain any original art until you are notified of selected art pieces(s). If selected, we may request that you scan the image(s) at 300 dpi.
6. Metropolitan will select 36 images to be displayed and represented in the District’s 2026 “Being Water Wise Is...” calendar and digital library. Selected artists will be honored at the recognition event in December (date TBD).
7. All art becomes the property of Metropolitan and the participating member/retail agency. Metropolitan and the participating agency have the right to use any selected art for the “Being Water Wise Is...” calendar, promotional items and/or for other public relations use. This includes but is not limited to Metropolitan’s website, social media, and reproduction of copies on such items as t-shirts, stickers, postcards, etc.

ART SELECTION CRITERIA

All art media are eligible (print, digital, 3D sculpture, etc.) and **must** be submitted digitally. Each of these selection criteria **must** be followed in order to qualify for judging by Metropolitan.

8. For students who use digital notepads or drawing tablets, all artwork must be original. Do not submit artwork with traced, trademarked, or copyrighted slogans or characters (i.e. Snoopy, Sponge Bob, Dora the Explorer, etc.).
9. “Being Water Wise Is ... “ is the overall theme. A “short” water message may be included on the artwork (not necessarily the words of the theme/topic). The less text the better.



- A good example of stewardship is protecting the water from pollution or collecting rainwater in buckets and reusing it to water plants
- A good example of conservation is turning off the water while brushing your teeth and taking short showers

10. Artwork may depict climate change or various conservation and waterwise use:

- a. inside or outside of the home or school
- b. in industries or businesses
- c. in the environment (nature)
- d. in agriculture
- e. in recreation
- f. cleanliness/proper hygiene

11. Art with misspelled words will not be selected.

12. Bold, bright, brilliant colors show up the best. Students may use the following art media: computer generated digital art, crayons, markers, pencils, paints, watercolors, chalk, cut paper or fabric.

13. Metropolitan reserves the right to question or disqualify any artwork that is clearly not the work of the student based on their age and grade level.

ART SCORING CRITERIA

Art will be selected for the Metropolitan Art Calendar based upon four scoring criteria:

- a. Adherence to Art Selection Criteria (as listed above)
- b. Degree to which art addresses water conservation and stewardship
- c. Level of originality (e.g. uniqueness, creativity)
- d. Degree of visual and word clarity (e.g. the use of color, art media and/or text)



2026 Student Information Card

“Being Water Wise Is ...” Student Art Contest

Student's First Name:		Grade Level:	
Student's Last Name			
Teacher's Name:		Teacher's Email:	
School District:		School Phone:	
School Name:			
Parent's Name:		Parent's Email:	
Parent's Home Address:			
Parent's Cell Phone			
Digital Filename:	(example: StudentLastName-FirstName-Agency.tiff)		

Submitting Agency:	
Contact Person(s):	

MWD Member Agency:	
Contact Person(s):	

Note: Please make sure all names and information are clearly written and spelled correctly. Include this document with your digital submission.



Student Artwork Rights / Parental Approval Form

Any submission becomes the property of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) and the participating agency, and the submission may or may not be returned.

Metropolitan and the participating agency have the right to use any selected poster for its "Being Water Wise Is..." calendar and promotional items, and for any other Metropolitan public relations use. This includes but is not limited to Metropolitan's web site, social media, display of the original or copies of art at exhibit events and reproduction of copies on such items as t-shirts, stickers and postcards, etc.

Yes, I approve of my child's artwork being featured in the Metropolitan 2026 calendar and on any non-profitable promotional education items.

No, I do not approve of my child's artwork being featured in the Metropolitan 2026 calendar and on any non-profitable promotional education items.

Student's Name (please print)

Date

Name of Parent/Guardian (please print)

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date