

2023 Teen Media Contest Official Contest Information

Sponsored by the New Jersey Department of Human Services,
Division of Family Development

About the Contest

The New Jersey Department of Human Services' (DHS) Division of Family Development invites preteens and teens across the state to participate in the 2023 New Jersey Teen Media Contest focusing on parental responsibility.

The statewide contest is open to New Jersey middle school and high school-age children. For the 2023 contest, entries will be accepted in the following categories:

- Hand-drawn or hand-painted artwork
- Written word (poems, essays, etc.)

The world around us is constantly changing, and with that comes new challenges that families will inevitably face. As we navigate another year, it is important to recognize how relationships and family involvement have a direct impact on our children and their development.

The 2023 contest challenges teens to illustrate – through art or the written word – ***How do your parents make everyday things special? What do they do to celebrate these small milestones and achievements?***

The DHS will use winning entries in the creation of an annual calendar that promotes its public awareness campaign aimed at New Jersey parents and professionals who work with families and the public.

What is Child Support?

Children's needs are many. They need to feel safe and secure in their environment. They need to be nurtured and loved. They need both financial and emotional support.

The purpose of the *Child Support. It's More Than Just Money* campaign is to serve as a reminder that no amount of money can replace the emotional caring and support parents give to their children. Child support is also time, teaching, protecting, playing and mentoring – and being there to care, share, celebrate and support.

Registration for Schools

Educators can register their school by logging on to www.NJTeenMedia.org, contacting Nicolette Omelczuk at (732)833-3783, or sending an email message to NJTeenMedia@gmail.com.

Each school or organization may submit an unlimited number of entries, but no more than one entry per individual student. All schools are eligible to register including public, private, parochial, charter school, and home-schooled students. School registration is not required for participation.

Registration for Individuals

Young artists can enter the contest directly without going through their school. No advance registration is necessary. Only one art or written-word entry is permitted per individual. Emailed questions can be sent to NJTeenMedia@gmail.com.

Official Rules for Entries

1. The contest is open to middle school and high school-age artists (ages 11-18) in New Jersey.
2. Entries must clearly reflect the contest theme and must be an original and exclusive work in idea, design, and execution.
3. Entries may not include any copyrighted material such as logos, comic characters, magazines, newspaper illustrations, or online watermarked images. Entries with these elements included are subject to disqualification.
4. All written word submissions are reviewed for plagiarized content. Instances of plagiarism are grounds for the immediate disqualification of the entry.
5. Entries *will not be returned* and are not for sale. All submissions will become the property of the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development. They may be used in various types of media and/or displays. Please consider making a copy of your entry prior to submission. The submitted entry must be the original.
6. An *Official Contest Entry Form* must be completed and submitted, either electronically or mailed with entry, in order for the entry to be accepted.

7. The entry itself must be properly labeled with the individual's name, school, age and grade to be accepted.
8. Relatives of DHS employees are not eligible to enter.

Submission Guidelines

Hand-Drawn/Hand-Painted Submissions

- Original paintings, drawings or illustrations must be submitted on paper, poster board or canvas that is at least 11" x 17" but no larger than 18" x 24".
- Please create all Hand-drawn/hand-painted artwork should in a horizontal/landscape format, as it may be used for a calendar and/or media display.
- Artwork may be done by hand in ink, charcoal, marker, watercolor, oil or acrylic paint.
- Do not fold any artwork! Please ship flat! If that is not possible, please roll the artwork and send in a mailing tube. Do not frame, mount or laminate the artwork.

Written Word Submissions

- Written word submissions can be in the form of poetry, essay, composition or short story.
- Written word entries are not limited by length, but for the purposes of calendar, online use, and/or media display, the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development reserves the right to abridge the entry. Judging will consider the entirety of longer written works.
- All written word submissions must be made electronically. Acceptable file formats for written word submissions is DOC, TXT or PDF.
- For electronic submission, please be sure the individual's name is included in the file name and the completed Official Contest Entry Form is submitted at the same time. Electronic submissions should be sent to NJTeenMedia@gmail.com.

Entry Deadline

To be eligible for this contest, entries must be postmarked no later than the **extended deadline of May 3, 2023** and be accompanied by the completed Official Entry Form.

Rules and deadlines are subject to change, without notice, at the sole discretion of the Department of Human Services.

Hardcopy entries can be shipped to:

**NJ Teen Media Contest
c/o Nicolette Omelczuk/EFK
8 Paulette Lane
Howell, NJ 07731**

Judging

Members of the Division of Family Development, with representatives from various other organizations and/or corporations in the state, will serve as judges for the Teen Media Contest.

Judging of artwork and written entries will be based on the following criteria (*in no specific order*):

- Theme depiction
- Overall appearance
- Originality
- Design & execution

Prizes

For both entry types, winning entries will be recognized based on the following:

- Middle School: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Places
- High School: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Places

This year, the prize packages will include American Express gift cards for winners in each grade range, in each creative category. The prizes are: 1st Place – \$225, 2nd Place – \$175, and 3rd Place – \$125. *Prize packages are subject to change without notice.*

Questions?

For more information on this contest, to download the entry form and to see previous winning works, visit www.NJTeenMedia.org.

If you have any questions regarding this contest, contact Nicolette Omelczuk at (732) 833-3783 or NJTeenMedia@gmail.com.

For more information on child support, visit www.NJChildSupport.org.