



UN Day 2026

Middle School Art Competition

October 24, 2026

Dear Educators,

The United Nations (UN) was founded in 1945 immediately after World War II to prevent future global conflicts and foster international cooperation. This year marks the UN's 80th year. In celebration the United Nations Association of Minnesota is sponsoring a middle school art contest.

The theme is **"What Does a Peaceful World Look Like?"**

We would like your school to participate.

Eligibility

1. All students in grades 6-8 are welcome to participate.
2. All participants will receive a certificate of participation from the United Nations Association of the United States of America - Minnesota (UNA-MN) chapter.

How it Works

3. Students need only to submit a single piece of art no larger than 11 x 17 inches.
4. Media used on the sheet of paper are at the discretion of the student and school.
5. Each school is encouraged to send up to 5 entries to the competition.
6. Schools will likely need to host a school-based competition to select the five entrants. This will be managed solely by the school.
7. A representative from UNA-MN will pick up the 5 entries from the schools on or about September 30.
8. A printable digital certificate for all participating students will be provided by October 1. Schools will need to add participant names to the certificates.

Evaluation Criteria

9. Entries will be evaluated by a panel using the following criteria:
 - **Theme Expression:** How well does your artwork show people "What does a Peaceful world look like"
 - **Creativity and Originality:** Unique ideas, bright expressions, and imaginative concepts.
 - **Visual Impact:** Clear messaging, neatness, and effective use of color on paper.

Submissions

10. All entries should not exceed 11 x 17 inches.
11. No identifying information should be present on the front of the piece to ensure anonymity.
12. Frame student artwork onto black chart Paper, Creating a black border.
13. At the BACK of the art piece should identify the following typed out: Student name, school, grade, school phone number and email of school representative.
14. Students are encouraged to submit an artist's statement explaining what a peaceful world looks like to them. This statement could be 1- 3 sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

Awards

15. All participants will receive a certificate of recognition.
16. Finalist Competition: Three winners will be chosen from all entries provided by participating schools.
17. Students advancing to the UN Day 2026 Middle School Art Competition will receive an additional certificate as a finalist.
18. In addition, one First place, one Second place and Third place winner will be chosen in the Finalist competition.
 - First place: First place ribbon and \$100 cash
 - Second place: Second place ribbon and \$75 cash
 - Third place: Third place ribbon and \$50 cash

Venue

The finalist exhibition and competition will be held at Hopkins Fine Art Center.

Hopkins Fine Art Center

1111 Main Street, Hopkins, MN 55343-7552

Doors open from 12:30 to 2:00 pm

Announcement of Results at Sharp 1:30PM

Contacts

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Link to United Nation Video for Middle School Student

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SaAmfiJtV4I>