



2011-2012 National Art Competition

The medium for 2011–2012 is **fibers**. The fiber medium includes any art that is created by using fibers—such as yarn, cloth, or string—and may include such artwork as macramé, painting on cloth, weaving, knitting, sewing, photos on cloth, and more.

Camp Fire USA has been conducting the National Art Competition since 1973. This competition recognizes and encourages creativity, excellence, and innovation in the arts. It is conducted locally by each Camp Fire council, using national guidelines. In the early years, the competition was based entirely on creativity; there were no age- or program-level divisions. In 1994, however, these categories were put into place and since then a participant's grade in school, program level, or age at the time the piece of art was created has determined the division to which the piece should be submitted.

Camp Fire USA National Art Competition Objectives

The objectives of this competition are to help young people:

- Increase personal creativity.
- Increase competency in, and learn the appropriate application of, the art medium.
- Gain greater self-awareness (for example, a sense of identity and self-esteem).
- Become more aware of different cultures.
- Make choices and plan sequentially.
- Experience a range of art forms.
- Develop skills and find outlets for personal expression.
- Consider related careers and lifetime interests.
- Develop a sense of competence and self-worth.

Camp Fire USA National Art Competition Guidelines

1. The National Art Competition is open to all current Camp Fire USA youth participants.
2. Entries will be judged on originality, excellence, and creativity.
3. Entries will be judged by age, grade, or program level.
4. The art may be produced in any setting, including home, school, after-school program, art or craft class, camp, or club meeting.
5. Entries may be entered in other competitions.
6. Each piece of art must be completed between June 2011 and April 15, 2012.

Planning Youth Sessions: All about the Art of Fibers

Depending on the age of youth participants, learning about fibers can be done in several sessions. Below are suggestions; however, youth should help plan the sessions:

1. What are fibers? Have the youth describe fiber art and give examples of different types of artwork. Talk about how fiber art is part of history. Discuss creativity and how creativity is part of fiber art. Give some examples. This session could also include a simple fiber activity.
2. Invite a fiber artist to talk with the youth, or visit an art museum to learn more about fiber art.
3. Hold a fiber art workshop. Organize three or four different options for the youth to create fiber art. At the end of the workshop, display the art created and discuss the advantages and challenges of each art type.
4. Have the youth do research about different fiber artwork—on the Internet, at a library or craft shop, or by talking to artists and people who create crafts. At the next session, have the youth present the information and give examples—descriptions or photos of the art or the actual works of art.
5. Plan with the youth the types of fiber art they want to create to enter into the National Art Competition. Arrange for supplies, and work with the youth to plan, design, and create their final pieces of art.

Camp Fire USA National Art Competition Youth Requirements

To complete the National Art Competition project, the participant needs to complete four of the eight activities in the following list and enter a piece of artwork in the council's competition.

1. Visit an art gallery, art show, craft show, museum, or art studio. Learn about the different ways that fibers are used in art projects.
2. Talk to an artist who uses fibers in his or her artwork. Ask why she or he chose fibers, and ask about art as a career. View samples of the artist's work.
3. Visit a craft or hobby shop, or look through art and hobby catalogs, to learn about the different types of fiber art projects. Discuss with your group the advantages of using certain fiber products for specific art projects.
4. Do research—on the Internet, in books, or at the library—about at least one type of fiber project and how it was used in different cultures in the past and/or how it is used today in various cultures. Share the research with other Camp Fire USA participants and your family.
5. Find at least three different ways to use fibers to make a finished product. Share your research with your group.
6. Find an artwork made with fibers displayed as art in your community. Discuss the work and how and where it is displayed.
7. Experiment with fiber techniques by designing and making something without using a pattern or kit.
8. Create a piece of art, using fibers, that is suitable for an art competition. Enter your project in the Camp Fire USA National Art Competition.