

2009-2010 NATIONAL PTA REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

GENERAL STUDENT PARTICIPATION RULES

Theme: "Beauty is..."

Students must adhere to the following General Student Participation Rules as well as the rules for their specific arts area.

1. Theme

The theme for the 2009-2010 program is "**Beauty is...**" **Only new pieces of artwork inspired by the theme may be submitted.**

2. Student eligibility through local PTAs

Students must participate in the Reflections Program through a PTA/PTSA/SEPTA/SEPTSA in good standing. Parent groups not affiliated with National PTA are not eligible to sponsor this program. It is the responsibility of the State and local PTA/PTSA/SEPTA/SEPTSA to determine each student's eligibility in the Reflections Program. A student may develop an entry in or outside of school.

3. Grade divisions

Students may enter the Reflections Program in the appropriate division for their grade. The divisions are as follows:

Primary: preschool–grade 2
Intermediate: grades 3–5
Middle/Junior: grades 6–8
Senior: grades 9–12

If students do not fall under specific grade divisions, National PTA suggests that they be grouped as follows:

Primary: up to age 7
Intermediate: ages 8–10
Middle/Junior: ages 11–13
Senior: ages 14+

It is the responsibility of the local PTA/PTSA/SEPTA/SEPTSA to determine the appropriate division if necessary.

4. Arts areas

Students may submit works in any of the six arts areas:

Dance choreography
Film production
Literature
Musical composition
Photography
Visual arts

National PTA does not limit the number of entries a student may submit.

5. Originality

Each entry must be the original work of one student only. An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage and recognize each student's individual creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed. Only one student may be recognized as the award recipient for each entry. Other individuals may appear in or in or perform a student's work, but the work itself-the dance choreography or film production (including screenplay, camerawork, and directing) or musical composition (including written score and any lyrics), etc.-must be the creative product of one student only. (See the specific arts area rules for details).

Use of copyrighted material (other than recorded music in dance choreography and film production entries) is prohibited.

Plagiarism is defined as taking and using another person's ideas, writings, or inventions as one's own. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the students.

6. Student Entry Form

All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Entry Form. Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may complete the form.

Students have the option of titling their works. If a work has a title, the title must be included on the Student Entry Form. If the work has no title, please write "Untitled". All entries must include an artist statement that describes how the piece relates to the theme. For most art areas, students must also answer a few questions about how they created their works; see Required Information on the Student Entry Form.

General Student Participation Rules Continued

7. Required Artist Statement

Each participant is required to submit an artist statement that describes what inspired him or her to create the work and how it relates to the theme. The artist statement is mandatory for all entries in all grade divisions. The statement should not exceed 250 words; there is no minimum length. The Student Entry Form provides a space for the artist statement; if the statement does not fit in the space given, it may be written on a separate sheet and attached to the Student Entry Form. Make sure the student's full name appears on any sheet attached to the Student Entry Form.

8. Students with disabilities

The Reflections Program at the National level does not have a special division for students with disabilities. National PTA believes it is the right of parents to place their child in the Reflections Program grade division that best reflects the child's developmental age. However, guidelines for State and local Reflections Programs vary. Check with your State PTA for its guidelines.

9. Deadlines

Each student must submit his or her work by the deadline established by his or her local PTA/PTSA/SEPTA/SEPTSA. Each local PTA/PTSA/SEPTA/SEPTSA sponsoring the program will set a deadline for entries in adherence with the State, Region, and council needs. These entries are judged, and the selected works are forwarded to the next level of judging (council, Region, or State). Direct all questions regarding deadlines or rules to your State PTA or State arts chair. National PTA does not have deadlines for local, council, Region, or State PTAs.

10. Judging

All national entries are judged on artistic merit, creativity, and interpretation of the theme.

Mastery of the medium in the context of the National Reflections Program pertains to the level of skill the student demonstrates in the basic principals/techniques of the arts. However, a well-developed concept is more important than technique. Entries will be judged primarily on how well the student uses his or her artistic vision to portray the theme.

The Reflections Program makes no restriction on content or subject in artwork. Students who are submitting entries need to meet school and/or local and State PTA standards.

Each PTA determines its own judges for the program. Under no condition may parents or students contact the judges to dispute the status of an entry. All decisions of judges are final.

11. Award recipient notification

State arts chairs will notify students who receive national recognition. State arts chairs will submit original photography and visual arts pieces to National PTA for the creation of the Reflections Program Gallery on the National PTA website. Any artworks, awards, or certificates returned to the National PTA office due to insufficient or incorrect addresses will be mailed to the appropriate State office.

12. Further information

Only your State PTA office and State PTA arts chair can provide you with information about your State's Reflections Program rules and deadlines.