

Santa Maria Valley History Day
Celebrating the 250th Birthday of The United States of America
Sponsored by the Santa Maria Valley Historical Society Museum and the Captain Henry Sweetser Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution

Art Contest Guidelines

1. Contest is open to students in grades Kinder – 12th, by the May 1st deadline who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial school or home study program in the Santa Maria Valley area. There are three grade categories for awards: K – 6, 7 – 8, and 9 – 12. **All entries must have a historical theme either relating to the Santa Maria Valley or the founding of the United States of America.** Prizes in each category for best representation of the theme and most creative. Prizes will include art supplies and gift certificates along with certificates for honorable mention. Winners will be presented their awards on June 6th, at the Santa Maria Valley Historical Society Museum. Most entries will be displayed at the SMVHS Museum from June 6th through September 2026.
2. **Artwork must be student's original work.** Artist should include a short statement of a paragraph or less describing their inspiration for the artwork. If needed, the statement can be dictated to or translated by the teacher, parent, or other helper. (Please make a note if this is the case, and include the original text if translated.) Any art entry that has been traced from or is a digital alteration of an existing photo or image that was created by someone other than the student is a violation of the competition rules. AI – generated art submissions violate competition rules. If using an image created by someone else (of an animal, for example) as a model for an art entry, student's artwork must be significantly different to avoid plagiarism. No hands other than the student's own should be involved in the creation of artwork.
3. Original artwork must be **no smaller than 5" x 7" and no larger than 11" x 17"** (for 3 – D art, use these as the base of the project). Acceptable art media are paint, pencil, markers, ink, charcoal, crayon, chalk or pastel (fixed), collage, paper, paper-mâché, clay, fabric, clay, video (3 min on thumb drive) or digital art (printed). Three-dimensional pieces, photography or art that uses glitter will NOT be eligible. Do not frame or mat artwork.
4. Complete **Entry Form** and attach to the back or bottom of entry or in envelope with thumb drive. Submit a **short statement** with Entry Form.
5. All entries must be **delivered to the Santa Maria Valley Historical Society Museum by 4 pm on or before May 1st, 2026.** Students may enter multiple pieces but must complete a separate entry form for each one. A **parent or guardian must approve and sign the Entry Form.** Winners will be contacted directly and announced on www.santamariahistory.com and Santa Maria Valley Historical Society Facebook page in May. Awards will be given at the Santa Maria Valley Historical Society Museum during their Open House on June 6th, 1 pm.
6. Artwork will be kept by the Santa Maria Valley Historical Society Museum for approximately four months, through September 2026, as part of a museum public exhibit.