

2025 AIR FORCE ART & PHOTO CONTEST



W I N T E R

WONDERLAND

1 MARCH - 30 APRIL

**OFFICIAL RULES &
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**



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Entry into the **Air Force Art & Photo Contest** indicates agreement by the entrant to all Air Force Art & Photo Contest Official Rules and Eligibility Requirements.

Theme

The Theme for 2025 is...

WINTER WONDERLAND

Winter is experienced differently by all of us depending upon our location in the world. It also means something different to every person. It is a time to make fond memories with family and loved ones around a fire, or a snow-covered mountain. It could even mean relaxing in a beach chair with palm trees in the distance. As the season changes, we want to encourage participants to capture these memories in print and art. We want you to share your winter experience with the Air Force and military community. In the 89 days of winter, participants will have a chance to showcase their best winter wonderland themed photo or art piece. This is a time for you to show us your Winter Wonderland!! Come up with your best Winter Wonderland themed photo, painting or drawing. This is your time to shine and to show off your creativity.

Eligibility Requirements

- Authorized patrons of Air Force Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Programs are eligible to participate in the Air Force Art & Photo Contest ([IAW AFI 34-101](#)).
- Entrants in the Adult Categories must be at least 18 years old at the time of entry.
- Entrants in the Youth Categories must meet the following age requirements.
 - **Youth Child** (Ages 6 to 8)
 - **Youth Pre-Teen** (Ages 9 to 12)
 - **Youth Teen** (Ages 13 to 17)
- A legal parent or guardian must submit entries on behalf of authorized Youth Category participants.
- Force Support Squadron (FSS) Commanders, civilian leaders, and FSS marketing personnel may enter the contest, but are NOT eligible to win prizes.
- Participants must meet all eligibility requirements determined in the Official Rules.
- Prizes will be awarded to eligible participants.
- Failure to meet eligibility or submission requirements will render the submission ineligible.
- Participants are limited to submitting entries within their respective age category. Submitting the same artwork or photograph in multiple age categories is prohibited and will result in disqualification.

Categories

Art (Main Category)

- **2D (sub-category)**
 - Age Groups
 - **Adult Novice**
 - **Adult Accomplished**
 - Youth Child (Ages 6 to 8)
 - Youth Pre-Teen (Ages 9 to 12)
 - Youth Teen (Ages 13 to 17)
- **3D (sub-category)**
 - Age Groups
 - **Adult Novice**
 - **Adult Accomplished**
 - Youth Child (Ages 6 to 8)
 - Youth Pre-Teen (Ages 9 to 12)
 - Youth Teen (Ages 13 to 17)

Photography (Main Category)

- Age Groups
 - **Adult Novice**
 - **Adult Accomplished**
 - Youth Child (Ages 6 to 8)
 - Youth Pre-Teen (Ages 9 to 12)
 - Youth Teen (Ages 13 to 17)

Description of Categories & Age Groups

2D

Two-dimensional art is a drawing, sketch, or painting. Accepted media include oil, watercolor, acrylic, pastel, mixed media, gouache, egg tempera, pen and ink, charcoal, colored pencil, scratch board, markers, metal point, and digital art.

3D

Three-dimensional art mediums are such as, sculpture, ceramic, pottery, clay, glass, metals, jewelry, wood, fiber, and textile.

Photography

The practice of capturing images by exposing light-sensitive film or a digital sensor directly to the scene being photographed. It involves composing a single image in-camera, without significant post-processing or manipulation. Traditional photography aims to depict a scene or subject as faithfully as possible, relying on natural lighting and minimal alterations.

Adult Novice

For individuals who are new or relatively inexperienced in working with the approved media. This category is ideal for artists developing their skills and who have not yet received formal art training. Additionally, Adult Novice includes:

- Artists who are self-taught and have primarily learned their medium through personal study or informal practice.
- Participants involved in local or community art groups or classes, where the focus is non-professional development and enjoyment.

Adult Accomplished:

For individuals with advanced skills acquired through education, experience, or professional practice. This category is intended for artists with significant experience or professional-level achievements, typically meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- Formal training from an art school, university, or art-based education program.
- Experience selling their artwork through galleries, commissions, or art shows.
- Exhibition history in professional galleries or juried exhibitions.
- Recognition or awards for their artwork from art competitions or exhibitions.
- Teaching, mentoring, or formally guiding others in the arts.
- Membership in recognized professional art associations or societies.
- Completion of paid art projects or commissions, reflecting a professional-level ability

Prizes

- Winners will be notified via email no later than 1 June 2025. Winners must respond via email within ***five calendar days*** of notification. If no response is received, an alternate winner will be chosen.
- Prizes will be awarded to the top three (3) winners in each sub-category.
 - First Place: \$500 Amazon Gift card
 - Second Place: \$400 Amazon Gift Card
 - Third Place: \$300 Amazon Gift Card
- Winners will receive an Amazon Gift Card presented by their installation Point of Contact (POC) in a method compliant with installation health and safety guidelines. If the winner is under the age of 18, a legal parent or guardian must be present with the youth to accept the prize.
- Winners must possess DoD ID card and have access to the installation selected in their submission.
- Acceptance of the prize grants the AF the right to use the winning submission in its entirety for any publicity, advertising, or promotional purposes without compensation.
- The winner must comply with all terms and conditions set forth in the Official Rules. Winning is contingent upon fulfilling all such requirements.
- No entrant may win more than one prize.

Contest Period

Submissions will be accepted beginning on 1 March 2025 at 1200 CST and end on 30 April 2025 at 1200 CST.

Entrants are responsible for determining the corresponding time zone in their respective geographical area. No exceptions will be made for missed deadlines.

How to Enter

No purchase is necessary to enter or win.

1. Visit <https://forcesupport.awardsplatform.com> from 1 March 2025 at 1200 CST to 30 April 2025 at 1200 CST.
2. Register for an account or sign in.
 - We recommend using a non-government email as they often block awards platform messages.
3. Click 'Start entry' button.
4. Under the 'Contest & Category' field, select '2025 Art & Photo Contest'.
5. Complete all remaining fields under each tab.
6. Click 'Submit entry' at the bottom of the page once your submission is complete.
 - You will receive a confirmation email after you submit your entry.

Air Force Services will not accept entries via any other means.

Submission Requirements

By submitting an entry in the contest, regardless of country of entry, each entrant represents and warrants that his or her photograph(s) conform to these Official Rules and meet the following criteria.

1. Submissions must be the original work of the entrant.
2. Submitted Artwork and Photographs must have been created within the time frame of 1 January 2025 to 30 April 2025.
3. Artwork and photograph(s) must convey the theme “Winter Wonderland.”
4. Submitted artwork and photographs may not have won a previous contest.
5. Artwork and photograph(s) must be submitted as high-quality JPG/JPEG or PNG files and must be 300 dpi when saved to ensure clear, detailed images for judging.
6. Participants may submit up to two (2) entries in each category. However, only one prize will be awarded per entrant.
 - i.e. Jane submits one 2D art piece, one 3D art piece, and two photographs in her respective category.
7. Artwork and photographs may only be submitted in an entrant’s respective age group.
8. All artwork and photographs must have a title. ‘Untitled’ work will not be accepted.
9. Each submission must have an accompanying caption that tells the story of the image and how it was made.
10. Submissions must not...
 - Be obscene or libelous
 - Contain defamatory or derogatory remarks
 - Use inappropriate language or slang
 - Violate any rights of any third party

Any submission violating these guidelines will be disqualified.

11. Artwork and photograph(s) must not be subject to any third party agreements which may require Air Force Services Center (AFSVC) to pay any sum of money to any person or entity as a result of its use or exploitation of the photographs or rights therein.
12. AFSVC reserves the right to request proof that the artwork and photograph(s) submitted is an original work. Non-compliance with this rule will result in

disqualification of the entry.

13. The entrant will hold AFSVC harmless for unauthorized use of artwork and photographs by third parties.
14. Submissions may be used without restriction by AFSVC, including without limitation, rights to use images in digital, social, broadcast, and printed media for the purposes of advertising, publicity and promotion. AFSVC reserves the right to modify images.
15. Generative AI tools are not permitted. All elements within the artwork and photograph must be created by the artist, without reliance on stock images, pre-made templates, or third-party models.
16. All eligible entrants who are Department of Defense (DoD) employees or service members must provide a valid military email address (e.g., @mail.mil or @us.af.mil) when submitting their entry. Dependents who do not have a military email address must use their sponsor's valid military email address to confirm eligibility.

Artwork Requirements

17. Any references used in creating artwork, including photographs, must be taken by the artist or must be used with written permission from the original source.
18. The artwork must be solely created by the entrant, without utilizing stock images, pre-made templates, or other third-party materials.
19. Artwork must not be based on published material, other artists' work, or any form of previously copyrighted content.
20. 2D Digital Artwork may be created in software, such as Adobe Photoshop, Procreate, and Corel Painter, using methods like digital painting, drawing, or illustration.
21. 3D Digital Artwork may be created in modeling software, such as Blender, Maya, or ZBrush. Submissions should be original digital renderings or scenes that reflect detailed design and creativity.

Photography Requirements

22. Traditional Photography: The practice of capturing images by exposing light-sensitive film or a digital sensor directly to the scene being photographed. It aims to depict a scene or subject as faithfully as possible, with minimal post-processing or manipulation.
23. Photographs may not bear watermarks, logos, signatures, or markings of any kind.
24. Photographs may be cropped.

25. Photographs may only be minimally processed.
26. Photographs must not contain content, element or material that violates a third party's intellectual property rights, including, but not limited to copyrights, trademarks, patents, trade secrets, logos, contract and licensing rights, rights of publicity or privacy, moral rights, or any other intellectual property rights.
27. By submitting, the entrant is guaranteeing that he/she holds the rights to everything in the image, and that it does not contain any copyright protected material that would require the consent of any third party; and does not violate any copyright, trademark, publicity right, or any other right of any third party.
28. Photographers and/or parents or legal guardians are solely responsible for obtaining proper releases for photographs which contain material or elements that are not owned by the entrant and/or which are subject to the rights of third parties, and/or if any persons appear in the photograph, the entrant is responsible for obtaining, prior to submission of the photograph, any and all releases and consents necessary to permit the exhibition and use of the photograph in the manner set forth in these rules without additional compensation.
29. If any person appearing in any photograph is under the age of eighteen, the signature of a parent or legal guardian is required for each release.

Judging

A panel of experts will evaluate each entrant's submission based on the following criteria: Impact, Creativity and Technical Excellence.

Determinations made by judges are final and binding.

- **Impact:** Viewing artwork/photographs for the first time always evokes a feeling. Sometimes they make us sad, happy, or angry. Sometimes they force us to look inward at ourselves. That is called impact, and the more powerful the image, the more powerful the emotional response of the viewer.
- **Creativity:** Your point of view is exactly that– yours. And it is unlike anyone else's. This element speaks directly to that perspective. It shows your imagination and how you used the medium to convey an idea, a message, or a thought to the viewer. This is how you differentiate yourself from others.
- **Technical Excellence:** This is the quality of the artwork/photo itself as it is presented for viewing. There are many aspects that speak to the qualities of technical excellence.

In artwork, these can include:

- Technique/Mastery of the medium
- Composition
- Detailing
- Color Theory
- Line Quality
- Perspective

In photography these can include:

- Retouching
- Manipulation
- Sharpness
- Exposure
- Color correction

There is no requirement to be a professional artist or photographer when entering the Air Force Art & Photo Contest; however, Air Force Arts and Crafts strives to help artists and photographers improve their skills.

Release Statement

Limitation of Liability

By entering the Air Force Art & Photo Contest, all entrants agree to release, discharge, and hold harmless the Air Force Services Center (AFSVC) and its partners, affiliates, subsidiaries, advertising agencies, agents and their employees, officers, directors, and representatives from any claims, losses, and damages arising out of their participation in the Air Force Art & Photo Contest.

The entrant is responsible for ensuring submissions are received by the specified deadline. AFSVC is not responsible for the condition, delivery, or non-delivery of any submission or communication regardless of the cause or type of error be it human, electronic, virtual, technical, or mechanical.

Disqualification

AFSVC reserves the right to disqualify any entry submission for any reason at its sole absolute discretion. The decisions of AFSVC with regard to the entrant eligibility, disqualification and determination of winners shall be final and binding.

Privacy Act Statement

Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) Purpose: To contact winners participating in web contests featured on <https://forcesupport.awardsplatform.com> and to add to the AFSVC and FSS customer databases for email notification of events, activities, and information. Routine Uses: This information will not be disclosed outside DoD. Disclosure/Effects: Disclosure is voluntary; however, entrant cannot participate in this contest without providing the contact information requested.