

# Marshall County America 250 Art Contest Guidelines

## Objective

Create an artwork that honors the **250th anniversary (1776–2026)** of the Declaration of Independence.

## Eligibility

- Open to all middle school students (6-8) & high school students (grades 9–12)
- Only one submission per student

## Guidelines

1. **Choose Your Focus:** Decide whether your artwork will show a **scene, object, or person** that symbolizes the spirit of independence and what it means today.
2. **Plan Your Design:** Sketch your idea first—consider historical and modern elements that connect 1776 and 2026.
3. **Create Your Artwork:**
  - Use any art form (drawing, painting, sculpture, etc.).
  - Include at least one clear symbol of American independence (such as the Liberty Bell, American flag, or people expressing freedom).
4. **Title and Description:** Give your piece a **title** and write a short **artist's statement (3–5 sentences)** describing your inspiration and message. Also, please include your name and contact information with your project.
5. **Show Effort and Originality:** Be creative, thoughtful, and respectful of the historical significance.
6. **Turn in your project:** Art projects must be turned in at the Marshall County Historical Society Museum (123 N. Michigan St, Plymouth) by **March 12, 2026**.

## Materials (suggested)

- Art paper, paint, pencils, or mixed media.

## Awards

- Cash prizes in the amount of **\$250 for 1st place and \$150 for 2nd place** will be awarded in each grade category (**6th-8th & 9th-12th**)
- **Note:** Winning projects will be displayed at Heartland Art Gallery.