



2026 Oregon FCE Essay and Artwork Contests

2nd and 3rd Graders (2 separate contests)

“What I love most about living in Oregon”

2026

ESSAY and ARTWORK CONTESTS CRITERIA

2nd and 3rd Graders

“What I love most about living in Oregon”

Dear County President and Essay and Artwork Contests Chairman:

Oregon FCE members statewide present annual contests for all 2nd and 3rd grade students in public, private, and home schools, 4-H, scouts, youth, or church groups, etc. are eligible. Oregon FCE's 2nd and 3rd grade Essay and Artwork Contests promotes FCE's literacy programs, and community involvement. The purpose of the 2026 contests encourages students to strive for excellence and creativity in reading, writing, and drawing skills.

The following are the guidelines to be used in the Oregon FCE 2nd and 3rd grade 2026 Essay and Artwork Contests.

- The contests will begin at the county level and each county will select and turn in their winning entry by the deadline stated. Late entries will not be considered.
- The contests run **September 1, 2025, through February 1, 2026. The entry and form must reach the County President or County Contests Chairperson on/before February 1, 2026. The entry and form of the winner for the County must reach the Oregon FCE President by March 15, 2026, or first day of the Oregon FCE Spring Board Meeting.**
- Each County is responsible for notifying its local schools, library or other networks such as social media or other methods that would have access to publicizing the contests to eligible 2nd and 3rd grade students.
- Each County must make sure the contact information is on the Parent letter and the Permission Form.
- Each County should forward the original copies of their first-place winner and signed permission slip to the Oregon FCE President by the state deadline of **March 15, 2026, or the first day of the Oregon FCE Spring Board Meeting.** Late entries will not be considered.
- Please mail or deliver the winning entry in a 9"x12" manila envelope to avoid folding the Essay and Artwork.
- Contestants not following all contests' instructions may be disqualified.



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Dear 2nd and 3rd Grade Teacher/Parent/Mentor:

The Oregon Family & Community Education members in _____ (county) are sponsoring state-wide contests. The contests are based on the theme of "What I love most about living in Oregon," and we are asking students to write a short Essay and Artwork depicting the theme.

The contest starts at the county level, where entries will be judged, and winners recognized from the county. The first-place county entries will be forwarded to the state level. The State FCE Associations will, in turn, judge and recognize winners for the state. First place state entries will then be judged at the Oregon level. The same judging criteria will be used at all levels. These include creativity, content, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, vocabulary, and presentation of the handwriting.

The Oregon 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place winners, of each the 2nd and the 3rd grade placers will receive a Visa Gift Card or check of \$50, \$30, \$20, respectively.

The contest criteria are as follows:

1. Any 2nd or 3rd grade level student in public, private, home schools, 4-H, scouts, youth, or church groups, etc. is eligible.
2. Entries are to include an essay and a hand drawn artwork. Use #2 pencils, or computer type for essay. Use #2 pencils or colored pencils for artwork.
You may color the artwork with colored pencils. No crayons or markers.
2nd and 3rd graders will be judged in two separate contests.
 - Essay and picture should reflect the theme of "What I love most about living in Oregon."
 - For **drawings, use unlined, white paper** approximately 8½" x 11".
 - For **essay, use lined, or unlined for computer typed, white paper** approximately 8½" x 11". The essay should be a **minimum of 50 words.**
1. Students should write their name, date, his or her teacher's or mentor's name, and name of the school, or home schooled, on the back of the picture and at the bottom of the essay.
2. Contestants not following all contests' instructions may be disqualified.

We hope you will join us in encouraging our students/children to strive for excellence in their writing and drawing skills.

Sincerely (County President or Contests Chairperson),

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____



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2026 ESSAY and ARTWORK PERMISSION FORM

(**MUST** be submitted with Essay and Artwork to be eligible for judging)

I give _____ my permission to participate in the Essay and Artwork Contests sponsored by the Oregon Association for Family & Community Education. I also give permission for his/her photograph to be used in publications. I also give permission to Oregon FCE to place my child's Essay and Artwork submission, name, and city on Oregon FCE's website, www.oregon-fce.org and in the Oregon FCE Newsletter.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

This work was completed on my own. I understand that the essay and drawing become property of Oregon FCE Association.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student's Grade (mark and circle one) _____ 2nd Grade _____ 3rd Grade

Student's Complete Name and Address: _____ Phone Number: (_ _ _) _____

Name _____

Address _____

Teacher's or Mentor's Name: _____

Name of School: _____

Essay and Artwork must reach the following County President/Contests Chairman on/before **February 1, 2026**, to be entered into the contests. Late entries will not be accepted.

Name of County President or Contests Chairman

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

County winner must be delivered to State President by **March 15, 2026, or first day the Oregon FCE Spring Board Meeting**. Late entries will not be accepted.



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JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS

Dear Judge,

On behalf of the Oregon Association Family & Community Education, we thank you for being an important part of our literacy project. It would not be a success without the time you so graciously give. If at any time during the judging process you need assistance or have questions, please feel free to contact me.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

THE CONTESTS CRITERIA:

1. Any 2nd or 3rd grade level student in public, private, home schools, 4-H, scouts, youth, or church groups, etc. is eligible. 2nd and 3rd graders will be judged in two separate contests.
3. Entries are to include an essay and a hand drawn picture. Use #2 pencils, or computer type for essay. Use #2 pencils or colored pencils for artwork. You may color the artwork with colored pencils. No crayons or markers. Do not fold the picture.
 - i. Essay and picture should reflect the theme of "What I love most about living in Oregon."
 - ii. For **drawings, use unlined, white paper** approximately 8½" x 11".
 - iii. For **essay, use lined, or unlined for computer typed, white paper** approximately 8½" x 11". The essay should be a **minimum of 50 words.**
2. Students should write their name, date, his or her teacher's or mentor's name, and name of the school, or home schooled, on the back of the picture and at the bottom of the essay.
3. Contestants not following all contests' instructions may be disqualified.

We ask that you do not write or mark on the entries as it may be judged at a higher level.

Again, we thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____



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JUDGING SHEET

Name of Student: _____

City/County _____

DRAWING

Message (10 points)

Creativity (10 points)

Execution (10 points)

ESSAY

Ideas (20 points)

Organization (8 points)

Voice (8 points)

Word Choice (8 points)

Sentence Fluency (8 points)

Conventions (8 points)

PRESENTATION (drawing & essay) (10 points)

(100 pts possible) **TOTAL SCORE** _____

Judged by: _____

Date: _____

Note: Contestants not following all contests' instructions may be disqualified.