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Youth Art Contest to Celebrate County Government

In an effort to bolster civic education and educate communities on the role of county government, the National Association of Counties (NACo) has launched the 2023 “I Love My County Because...” art contest.

The program is sponsored by Americans for the Arts, one of the nation’s largest arts advocacy and research organizations.

NACo and county leaders are attempting to spread the word about county roles and responsibilities, which are often unknown or misunderstood. By inviting children and young adults K-12 to create artwork for the 2024 “Counties Matter” calendar, NACo hopes to raise awareness about programs and services that impact people’s lives every day.

The deadline to enter is 11:59 p.m. on Friday, September 29. Entries – limited to one per student – will be accepted electronically. Winners will be asked to mail their original artwork for display.

Only students living in the United States who are in grades K through 12 are eligible. Each submission must be original artwork created during 2023 by one student.

Submitted artwork must present a county activity that shows how “Counties Matter” and inspired by the sentence “I love my county because...” The artwork must reflect some aspect of a county government function, service or program, to celebrate National County Government Month.

Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

- **Technical skill:** The artwork must display artistic skill in painting, drawing or digital art.
- **Creativity:** The artwork must be original in its expression of a personal vision or voice. It must be the student's own work and cannot be plagiarized or in violation of any copyright.
- **Artist’s statement:** Along with the artwork, each student is required to submit a statement that explains how “Counties Matter” in their community or complete the sentence “I love my county because...”. Submitted artwork should reflect the spirit of the statement submitted.

For more information, visit <https://www.naco.org/resources/i-love-my-county-because-art-contest#deadline>.