



2026 ART & ESSAY CONTEST

FOR MIGRANT & SEASONAL FARMWORKER CHILDREN

ART & ESSAY CONTEST GUIDELINES & APPLICATION

THEME: FROM FARMWORK TO POWERFUL FUTURES

The challenges children face today can become meaningful dreams of tomorrow.

We invite migrant and seasonal farmworker children across the United States to share their stories, dreams, and experiences through **art or writing**. Your voice matters, and your ideas can inspire change!

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- Migrant or seasonal farmworker children
- Living in the **United States of America**
- Ages **10–18**

CHOOSE HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

ART ENTRY



- Drawing, painting, or illustration
- Paper size: **8.5 x 11 inches**
- Must relate to this year's theme
- Include a **short description (one paragraph)** about your artwork

ESSAY ENTRY



- Maximum **1 page**
- Paper size: **8.5 x 11 inches**
- English or Spanish accepted
- Must relate to this year's theme

DEADLINE: All entries must be submitted by **July 31, 2026**. *Late submissions cannot be accepted.*

CONTEST RULES



- Entries **must clearly express the contest theme**
- Work must be **original and created by the student**
- Art and essays must be on **8.5 x 11 paper**
- Submissions may be in **English or Spanish**
- Incomplete entries cannot be accepted
- Send entries by **July 31, 2026**

WHERE TO SEND YOUR ENTRY?

Mail your complete submission to:

Melanie Forti – AFOP

1250 Connecticut Ave, N.W.,
Suite 700,
Washington, DC 20036



PRIZES: Winners will be notified August 30, 2026

ART CATEGORY		ESSAY CATEGORY	
Ages 10–13	Ages 14–18	Ages 10–13	Ages 14–18
1st Place — \$300	1st Place — \$300	1st Place — \$300	1st Place — \$300
2nd Place — \$200	2nd Place — \$200	2nd Place — \$200	2nd Place — \$200
3rd Place — \$100	3rd Place — \$100	3rd Place — \$100	3rd Place — \$100

➔ **IMPORTANT:** Winner's will be asked to submit a video reading and/or describing their entry.

2026 ART & ESSAY CONTEST APPLICATION FORM

PARTICIPANT'S INFORMATION / INFORMACION DEL PARTICIPANTE		
1	Participant's Full Name / Nombre Completo del Participante	
2	Participant's Date of Birth / Fecha de Nacimiento del Participante	_____ / _____ / _____ Age/ Edad: _____
3	Participant's Email / Correo Electrónico del Participante	<input type="checkbox"/> don't have/no tengo
4	Telephone or Mobile phone / Teléfono o Celular	<input type="checkbox"/> don't have/no tengo (_____) _____ - _____
5	Participant's Postal Address / Dirección Postal del Participante (Where check can be sent/ Dónde se pueda enviar el cheque)	_____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
6	I submitted... / Yo entregué...	<input type="checkbox"/> Art/Arte <input type="checkbox"/> Essay/Ensayo
7	I included a photo of myself / Incluí una foto mía	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes/Sí <input type="checkbox"/> No
PARENT INFORMATION		
1	Mother's Full Name / Nombre completo de la Madre	
2	Mother's Cellphone / Celular de la Madre	<input type="checkbox"/> don't have/no tengo (_____) _____ - _____
3	Mother's Email/ Email de la Madre	<input type="checkbox"/> don't have/no tengo
4	Father's Full Name / Nombre completo del Padre	
5	Father's Cellphone / Celular del Padre	<input type="checkbox"/> don't have/no tengo (_____) _____ - _____
6	Father's Email / Email del Padre	<input type="checkbox"/> don't have/no tengo
OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION		
1	Contact's Full Name / Nombre completo del Contacto	
2	Relationship w/ participant / Relación con participante	
3	Contact's Email / Email del Contacto	
4	Contact's Phone / Teléfono de Contacto	(_____) _____ - _____

GOT QUESTIONS? CONTACT US! Melanie Forti at forti@afop.org / Vashti Kelly at kelly@afop.org

CHILDREN IN THE FIELDS CAMPAIGN MEDIA RELEASE FORM

Please print carefully all information.

CHILD'S INFORMATION

Child's Name: _____

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY): _____ / _____ / _____

Postal Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: _____

MEDIA RELEASE FOR CHILD

I, the parent or legal guardian of *(child's name)* _____, give permission to the Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP) and its representatives to photograph, film, record, or collect written or spoken statements from my child.

These materials may include:

- Photographs or digital images
- Video recordings
- Audio recordings
- Written statements or quoted remarks

AFOP may use these materials for educational or promotional purposes, including:

- Printed publications or materials
- Presentations
- Websites and online platforms
- Other electronic publications

I authorize the use of these materials indefinitely without compensation to me. All negatives, positives, prints, digital reproductions, written materials and video or audio recordings shall be the property of AFOP.

Parental/Guardian's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

Theme: From Farmwork to Powerful Futures

Slogan: The challenges children face today can become meaningful dreams of tomorrow.



GUIDED QUESTIONS TO PRESENT ENTRIES

Using the following questions develop your art and/or essay entry:

- How has working in the fields shaped your dreams?
- What sacrifices have you or your family made?
- What future do you hope to create for yourself?
- How do people sometimes misunderstand the lives of farmworker children?
- What challenges do you face that others might not see?
- What would you like your future to be known for?

Contest Checklist

Before submitting your entry, make sure you include:

- Original **Art or Essay**
- Art or Essay **clearly express the contest theme**
- Completed Application Form**
- Signed Media Release (by parent or guardian)**
- Art description** (required for art entries)



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GOT QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

- Melanie Forti at forti@afop.org
- Vashti Kelly at kelly@afop.org