



2026 Teacher's Guide

Keep North Dakota Clean (KNDC) is celebrating their **58th** year of hosting the largest and longest-running Artwork contest in the state! KNDC is proud to partner with **Newman Outdoor Advertising** to motivate youth, and adults, to take action in their daily lives to protect the environment. Actions—even small ones—when taken together can create large-scale impacts. Help keep North Dakota clean and healthy for the people and animals that live and visit here. The artwork contest is for students in grades PreK-8 and students with special abilities. Participants create artwork that reflects their knowledge about the responsibility we all have to take care of our state's resources for generations to come. Highschool students grades 9-12 are invited to participate in the Media contest by creating radio advertisements to spread the message of KNDC. This packet outlines the rules and entry instructions for both the Artwork and Media contest.

First place winners receive a cash award of \$100, a certificate, a gold medallion, and have their artwork made into billboards by **Newman Outdoor Advertising**. Second place winners receive a cash award of \$75, a certificate, and silver medallion; third place winners receive a cash award of \$50, a certificate, and a bronze medallion. All state winners, their immediate families, and teachers, will be invited to an awards ceremony and luncheon on Monday, May 4, 2026, in Bismarck, ND.



Artwork Contest Rules for Grades PreK-8

The best artwork design for a billboard is bright, bold, and simple with dark lettering. Keep in mind, people can only read and understand about six words as they drive at highway speeds. Make a colored photocopy for the student to keep prior to mailing their artwork to KNDC, because **originals will NOT be returned**.

- ✓ All entries **MUST** be received no later than **March 6, 2026**. Tracking on all submissions is encouraged.
- ✓ All artwork **MUST** be on white **8.5 x 14 inch paper (legal-sized)** in **landscape** format. Other sizes are disqualified. This size is necessary so Newman Signs can scan the winning artwork to fit on a billboard.
- ✓ All entries **MUST** have a completed "Entry Form" taped to the back of the artwork.
- ✓ All entries **MUST** have the student's first and last name printed legibly on the **BACK** of the artwork in the lower right-hand corner. Don't use heavy ink that may bleed through or show in the front.
- ✓ The theme phrase **MUST** be on each entry and spelled correctly or will be disqualified. Special abilities students may use their theme or their grade theme. See page 2 & 3 for the theme phrases (**bolded**) for each grade.
- ✓ Entries **MUST** be reproducible and will be judged on readability at ten feet, originality, and neatness.
- ✓ All entries **MUST** be original artwork created by the student. Computer-generated art or printing, commercial glue-on letters, or copyright items (music, Disney characters, etc.) will **NOT** be accepted.
- ✓ All entries **MUST** lay flat. They should **NOT** be folded, matted, mounted, laminated, or framed. They may be rolled and put into a tube and mailed, if necessary.
- ✓ Artwork may be done in marker, crayon, colored pencil, watercolor, ink, acrylic, or tempera paint. Oil pastels are **NOT** acceptable. Bright, bold, and dark simple artwork shows up the best on billboards.
- ✓ Each school may submit only **one winner per classroom**. For example, if a school has three 4th grade classrooms, the total of 4th grade submissions from that school must be three or less.

Artwork Themes

Questions regarding the Artwork Themes and Contest Rules can be sent to kndc.artcontest@gmail.com or you may call Emilee Novak at (701) 328-5240.



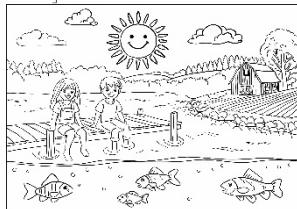
STUDENTS with SPECIAL ABILITIES (Grades PreK-8)

Theme: **Keep North Dakota Clean OR they may select their appropriate grade level theme –**

The logo coloring page can be downloaded from the KNDC website (www.keep-nd-clean.org). SPONSOR: ND Department of Transportation.



Keep North Dakota Clean



Pre-K/KINDERGARTEN Theme: **Keep North Dakota Clean** – Complete the **NEW** coloring page depicting children enjoying the beautiful landscape and water resources of North Dakota. This coloring page can be downloaded from the KNDC website (www.keep-nd-clean.org). SPONSOR: Anonymous.

GRADE 1 Theme: **Keep ND Highways Clean** - Create a poster depicting a clean highway. SPONSOR: ND Department of Transportation.



GRADE 2 Theme: **Only You Can Prevent Wildfires!** - Artwork must include Smokey Bear and his efforts to educate adults and youth about preventing accidental, human-caused wildfires. The first-place state winner will be sent on to the national Smokey Bear contest. SPONSORS: ND Forest Service-Fire Management



GRADE 3 Theme: **Reduce, Reuse, Recycle** - How can we help reduce the waste we make every day? When we reduce, reuse, and recycle, we can save our earth's resources. SPONSORS: ND Department of Environmental Quality - Division of Waste Management, ND Solid Waste and Recycling Association, and City of Bismarck/Recycling.



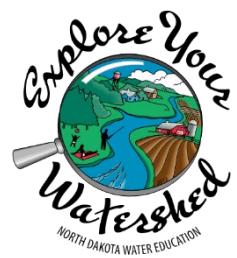


GRADE 4 Theme: **Habitat—Homes for Wildlife** - North Dakota has five major habitats. They are prairie, badlands, wetlands, riparian areas and woodlands. Each of these habitats is important to wildlife of North Dakota and each is home to different species of wildlife and plants. SPONSORS: ND Game and Fish Department.



GRADE 5 Theme: **Trees Inspire Me To...** - Students will create artwork that reflect the inspiration they draw from North Dakota's trees. They provide beauty; food; habitat for wildlife; protect water and soil; produce oxygen; improve air quality; and provide recreation opportunities. SPONSOR: ND Forest Service-Project Learning Tree.

GRADE 6 Theme: **Help Prevent Runoff Pollution** - When it rains, pollutants from many different human activities that are on the land in a watershed, whether urban or rural, are carried over the land directly to a water body, enter an underground aquifer, or are carried through storm sewers to a water body. People can prevent or reduce runoff pollution. SPONSOR: ND Department of Water Resources - Project WET and ND Water Education.



GRADE 7 Theme: **Keep Our Beaches Clean** - From local lakes to Lake Sakakawea and the Missouri River, keeping our beaches clean not only makes them look better but keeps them safer for others. SPONSOR: ND Department of Water Resources

GRADE 8 Theme: **Keep ND State Parks Clean** - North Dakota's fourteen state parks offer unique historical, cultural, and recreational opportunities. Create artwork that inspires visitors to leave no trace by packing out everything that is packed in, keeping ND State Parks clean and tidy for generations. SPONSOR: The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department.



KNDC, Inc., under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, ensures that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, religion, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination, including sex, age, disability, low-income, or LEP discrimination, under any program or activity for which the recipient receives federal financial assistance.



High School Grades 9-12 Digital Media Contest

Keep North Dakota Clean Inc. and the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality – Water Quality Division are sponsoring a statewide digital media contest to promote keeping North Dakota's outdoor spaces clean by showcasing the creative talents of students in grades 9-12.



**For 2026, this MUST be a 30-second promotional audio recording suitable for news/media platforms.
(i.e. YouTube, Facebook, Radio, etc.)**

- ✓ The digital audio file **MUST** convey **one of the Artwork Themes**. Participants are tasked with creating a public service announcement to raise awareness and educate the public on a grade level theme of their choosing. **The chosen theme must be verbally expressed verbatim to what is written on the Artwork Themes guidance sheet.**
- ✓ All the elements in the digital audio **MUST** be original student-created works. No professional or parental assistance will be allowed.
- ✓ When formatting, editing, and exporting, please use an mp3 format. Files **MUST** be submitted in a 30-second-long format.
- ✓ Each student may submit only **ONE** audio file, and it will be judged on originality.
- ✓ Each digital file **MUST** be submitted electronically by **March 6, 2026**.
 - Send a general email to **kndc.artcontest@gmail.com**.
 - Subject line **MUST** read "KNDC Submission Request."
 - Attach your completed KNDC entry form and audio file.
 - Once your email is received, you will get a reply confirming receipt.
- ✓ All submitted files will become the property of KNDC for educational and promotional purposes **ONLY and will NOT be returned**.

Questions? Contact: kndc.artcontest@gmail.com or Emilee Novak at (701) 328-5240.

The top three state winners, and their immediate families and teachers, will be invited to an awards ceremony on Monday, May 4, 2026, in Bismarck, ND. After the awards ceremony, a luncheon will be served. The First Place Winner will receive a cash award of \$100, a certificate, and a gold medallion. The Second Place Winner will receive a \$75 cash award, a certificate, and a silver medallion. The Third Place Winner will receive a cash award of \$50, a certificate, and a bronze medallion.



2026 KNDC Entry Form

All entries become the property of KNDC and *will not be returned*.

Grades PreK-8 **MUST** tape (No Glue/Staples) this **FULLY COMPLETED** form to the back of each artwork. Grades 9-12 **MUST** email this completed entry form to kndc.artcontest@gmail.com with audio submission.

Please circle the student's grade below.

Grade (circle one): Pre-K/K 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th
HS (9th-12th) Students with Special Abilities

Photo permission: I consent to the use of any photographs taken of me at the awards ceremony to be used by KNDC Inc. strictly for promotional use of the contest. I understand all artwork becomes the property of KNDC and will **NOT be returned to the student, parents or school.**

Please ensure this form is completed legibly and in full.

Student's name: _____ **Student's signature:** _____

Parent's name: _____ Parent's signature: _____

Parent's signature: _____

Teacher's name: _____ Teacher's signature: _____

Date: _____

Print student's home mailing address below: Address: _____ City, State & Zip: _____	Parent's cell, home, or work telephone: _____ Parent's email: _____
Print name of student's school:	School telephone:
Print school's mailing address below: Address: _____ City, State & Zip: _____ County: _____	Teacher's email address at school: _____ Teacher's cell or work telephone: _____

Fold on dotted lines and tape to back of submission. Tape should not wrap to front of artwork

Submissions for Grades PreK-8 must be received by March 6, 2026, mail artwork to:

**KNDC ARTWORK CONTEST
PO BOX 1138
BISMARCK ND 58502-1138**

Submissions for Grades 9-12 must be emailed by March 6, 2026, to: kndc.artcontest@gmail.com

Questions? Email kndc.artcontest@gmail.com or call (701) 328-5240.



2026 Keep North Dakota Clean Participation Form

To assist KNDC with tracking our yearly involvement, please complete this participation form for your classroom, school or learning institution. This form may be submitted to KNDC via email (kndc.artcontest@gmail.com), by using the online form (<https://forms.office.com/g/8rXvjCZNkG>), or via mail (PO BOX 1138, Bismarck, ND 58502-1138) along with the selected artwork submission from your classroom, school or learning institution.

School Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Email: _____

School Address: _____

School County: _____

School City, State & Zip: _____

Grade Level	Total Number of Participants
PreK & Kindergarten	
First	
Second	
Third	
Fourth	
Fifth	
Sixth	
Seventh	
Eighth	
Nineth – Twelfth	
Total	