
ChildSupport.

It's more than just money.

2021 New Jersey Teen Media Contest

Official Contest Information

Sponsored by: New Jersey Department of
Human Services Division of Family
Development

About the Contest

The New Jersey Department of Human Services' (NJ DHS) Division of Family Development invites pre-teens and teens across the state to participate in the 2021 New Jersey Teen Media Contest focusing on parental responsibility.

The statewide contest is open to New Jersey middle school-aged and high school-aged children. For the 2021 contest, entries will be accepted in the following categories:

- Hand-drawn or hand-painted artwork
- Written word (poems, essays, etc.)

These have been challenging times for all of us and so much has changed in the world around us. From increasing our time outdoors, spending time with our families and loved ones while socially distancing and doing many activities we are used to doing in person in front of a screen, this year has affected our lives in many ways.

The 2021 contest challenges teens to illustrate – through art or the written word - *how you and your loved ones have supported each other through all of the changes that have happened this year from remote schooling to finding new ways to stay connected to friends and family.*

The DHS will use winning entries in the creation of an annual calendar that promotes its public awareness campaign aimed at New Jersey parents and professionals who work with families and the general public.

What is Child Support?

Children's needs are many. They need to feel safe and secure in their environment. They need to be nurtured and loved. They need both financial and emotional support.

The purpose of the state's *Child Support. It's More Than Just Money* campaign is to serve as a reminder that no

amount of money can replace the emotional caring and support parents give to their children. Child Support is also time, teaching, protecting, playing and mentoring – and being there to care, share, celebrate and support.

Registration for Schools

Educators can register their school by logging on to www.NJTeenMedia.org, or by contacting Matthew Cossel by phone at (201)702-1667 or via email at njteenmedia@gmail.com.

Each school or organization may submit an unlimited number of entries, but no more than one entry is permitted per individual student. All schools are eligible to register including public school, private school, parochial school, charter school, and home-schooled students. School registration is not required for participation.

Registration for Individuals

Young artists can enter the contest directly without going through their school. No advance registration is necessary. Only one art or written-word entry is permitted per individual. Questions can be emailed to Matthew Cossel at njteenmedia@gmail.com.

Official Rules for Entries

1. The contest is open to middle school and high school age artists (ages 11-18) in New Jersey.
2. Entries must clearly reflect the contest theme and must be an original and exclusive work in idea, design, and execution.
3. Entries may not include any copyrighted material such as logos, comic characters, magazines, newspaper illustrations, or online watermarked images. Entries with these included are subject to disqualification.
4. All written word submissions will be reviewed for plagiarized content. Instances of plagiarism are grounds for the immediate disqualification of the entry.

5. Entries *will not be returned* and are not for sale. All submissions will become the property of the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development and may be used in various types of media and/or displays. Please consider making a copy of each entry prior to submission, but the entry must be the original.
6. An **Official Contest Entry Form** must be completed and submitted with each entry, either electronically or mailed with entry, in order for the entry to be accepted.
7. The entry itself must be properly labeled with the individuals name, school, age and grade to be accepted.
8. Relatives of NJDHS employees are not eligible to enter.
9. All entries must be postmarked no later than the **April 21, 2021** entry deadline.

Submission Guidelines

Hand-Drawn/Hand-Painted Submissions

- Original paintings, drawings, or illustrations must be submitted on paper, poster board, or canvas that is at least 11" x 17" but no larger than 18" x 24".
- Hand-drawn/hand-painted artwork should be designed in a horizontal/landscape format, as it may be used for a calendar and/or media display.
- Artwork may be done by hand in ink, charcoal, marker, watercolor, oil or acrylic paint.
- Artwork must not be folded. If possible, mail flat. If not possible, art maybe be rolled and sent in a mailing tube. Artwork must not be framed, mounted or laminated.

Written Word Submissions

- Written word submissions can be in the form of poetry, essay, composition or short story.
- Written word entries are not limited by length, but for the purposes of calendar or online use, and/or media display, the New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Family Development reserves the right to abridge the entry.
- All written word submissions must be made electronically. Acceptable file formats for written word submissions is DOC, TXT or PDF.

- For electronic submissions, please be sure the individual's name is included in the file name and the completed Official Contest Entry Form is submitted at the same time. Electronic submissions should be sent, via email, to njteenmedia@gmail.com.

Entry Deadline

To be eligible for this contest, entries must be postmarked no later than **April 21, 2021** and be accompanied by the completed Official Entry Form enclosed.

Rules and Deadlines are subject to change at the sole discretion of the Department of Human Services.

Hardcopy entries can be shipped to:

**NJ Teen Media Contest
c/o Ben Martin/EFK
161 North Maple Avenue
Park Ridge, NJ 07656**

Judging

Members of the New Jersey Department of Human Services, with representatives from various other organizations and/or corporations in the State, will serve as judges for the Teen Media Contest.

Judging of artwork and written entries will be based on the following criteria (*in no specific order*):

- Theme depiction
- Originality
- Overall appearance
- Design & execution

Prizes

For both entry types, winning entries will be recognized based on the following:

- Middle School: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Places
- High School: 1st, 2nd and 3rd Places

This year, the prize packages will include American Express gift cards for winners in each grade range, in each creative category. The prizes are: 1st Place -- \$225 | 2nd Place -- \$175 | 3rd Place -- \$125. *Prize packages are subject to change without notice.*

Questions?

If you have any questions regarding this contest, contact Matthew Cossel at (201)702-1667, or visit www.NJTeenMedia.org.

If you have questions regarding the State's public awareness program on child support, visit www.njchildsupport.org