

Scottsdale Sister Cities Association

"The Sisterhood of Cities Leads to the Brotherhood of People"

Scottsdale Young Artist & Author Showcase

2026 THEME: "VOICES OF TODAY, VISIONS OF TOMORROW"

What is YAAS?

The Young Artists & Authors Showcase (YAAS) is a student art and writing competition. This annual contest encourages local & worldwide youth to express their interpretation of the mission of Sister Cities – reflecting belief in the power of personal connections. Competitions are held by local member cities in the Spring (ours is Scottsdale Sister Cities Association), with winners advancing to the Sister Cities International Competition in April. Cash prizes are awarded at the local and international level. Scottsdale celebrates all participants with an exhibit and award ceremony at the Civic Center Library in April (date of ceremony to be announced).



\$250 - 1st Place Art Winner 2025

*"A World We Weave Together", by Mia Hawley
Chaparral High School*

\$250 - 1st Place Poetry Winner 2025

*"Imaginary Boundaries"
by Adelina Grotenhuis*

*"The night is young, eyes twinkle with joy,
surrounded by those dear enough to annoy.
A celebration for the ages, melodies loud.
Dance and music know no bounds."*

This year's theme invites young artists and authors to raise their voices during a historic moment as the United States celebrates 250 years since its founding, and Sister Cities International honors 70 years of building global friendships and cultural understanding. It reflects the ongoing journey from the country's founding ideals toward a more interconnected, peaceful world.

Entrants must be aged 12-18 on or before April 1, 2026.

Residents and/or students of Scottsdale and the surrounding area are eligible. Deadline to enter: March 23, 2026.

For more info: szally@scottsdaleartschool.org





Scottsdale Sister Cities Association Local Showcase 2026

“The Sisterhood of Cities Leads to the Brotherhood of People”

Scottsdale Young Artist & Author Showcase

2026 THEME: “VOICES OF TODAY, VISIONS OF TOMORROW”

Student Art & Writing Competition

Young artists and authors are invited to express their creativity through the theme “Voices of Today, Visions of Tomorrow”. By participating in this inspiring competition, young creators will have the opportunity to share their vision of a peaceful world and contribute to the international dialogue about the importance of building friendships across nations. Winning entries will be featured in Sister Cities International’s global network, inspiring communities and leaders worldwide.

2026 SCOTTSDALE YOUNG ARTISTS & AUTHORS SHOWCASE AWARD WINNERS WILL RECEIVE:

Art Competition	Award	Writing Competition	Award	<i>*1st through 5th Place winners advance to Sister Cities International Competition</i>
1 st Place *	\$250	1 st Place *	\$250	
2 nd Place *	\$200	2 nd Place *	\$200	
3 rd Place *	\$150	3 rd Place *	\$150	
4 th Place *	\$125	4 th Place *	\$125	
5 th Place *	\$100	5 th Place *	\$100	
Honorable Mention	\$25	Honorable Mention	\$25	
Accepted for Show	Certificate	Accepted for Show	Certificate	

SCOTTSDALE YOUNG ARTIST & AUTHOR SHOWCASE GUIDELINES

Entry Deadline	<i>Forms, Written Entries & Artwork must be delivered on or before March 23, 2026</i>
Requirements for Visual Art	2-Dimensional Art Only (3-D art and art reliefs cannot be accommodated and will not be accepted). Dimensions of art not to exceed 18" X 24" . Submit unframed and unmatted (art may be matted or mounted on matboard if they are standard sizes only). One entry per student. Art must be original in creation and content; no copies of other artists’ work will be accepted. (Please pay particular attention to the SCI plagiarism policies). Judges will evaluate entries based on theme interpretation, technique, creativity & originality. Accepted entries will be on display at the local showcase. 1 st through 5 th Place Winners will advance to Sister Cities International competition (digital copy image, not original art).
Deliver or Drop-Off Art	Scottsdale Artists’ School, 3720 N. Marshall Way, Scottsdale, AZ 85251, 480-584-6301 Attn: Sandra Zally, SSCA Art & Culture Programs, szally@scottsdaleartschool.org
Requirements for Literature: Essay or Poetry	Essay, maximum of 500 words, or Poetry, a maximum of 200 words , not to exceed 25 lines. Must be double-space typed in English, one entry per student. Judges will evaluate entries based on theme interpretation, composition, and grammar. All work must be original and inspired by the theme. Email Entry Form and digital copy of original essay or poetry to: info@scottsdalesistercities.com Winning entries will be on display at the local showcase.
Eligibility	Entrants must be aged 12-18 on or before April 1, 2026. Residents and/or students of Scottsdale and the surrounding area are eligible.
Professional Jury	Place Awards and Exhibition pieces will be selected by a professional jury. Results will be announced by email to participating art/writing teachers by March 30, 2026.
Award Ceremony	Award Ceremony – April 18th, 1:00-2:00 at Civic Center Library -Auditorium
Exhibition	Exhibition April 3-30, 2026 Scottsdale Public Library: Civic Center Branch, 3839 N. Drinkwater Blvd. Scottsdale, AZ 85251



Scottsdale Sister Cities Annual Young Artists & Authors - Local Showcase Entry Form

2026 THEME: "VOICES OF TODAY, VISIONS OF TOMORROW"

***Please TYPE or PRINT CLEARLY in BLACK INK in English. Submit this form with your Entry.**

Student - Artist/Author Information		SISTER CITIES MEMBER SPONSOR INFORMATION	
Teacher Name		Sponsor of Entry	Scottsdale Sister City Association
School		Sister City	Scottsdale AZ 85251
Teacher Email		SSCA Contact	Sandra Zally, Arts & Culture Chair
Student Name		Contact Phone	602-565-8035 cell
Age/Birth Date		Contact Email	szally@scottsdaleartschool.org
Address		Art Entry Drop-off	Scottsdale Artists' School, Front Desk
City, State, Zip		SAS Address	3720 North Marshall Way
Phone		Entry Deadline	March 23, 2026
Entry Title			
Medium		Size (for art)	
<p><i>Please tell us what inspired you to create this work. (If needed, type on back or on another sheet of paper.)</i></p>			
<p>Artist/Author Waiver: I understand that all showcase entries become the artistic property of Scottsdale Sister Cities Association (SSCA). Although the artist retains his/her copyright for other uses, SSCA will retain perpetual, non-exclusive rights to use submitted artwork in any future publication, promotional material, and/or online service with no compensation other than credit with the artist's name and community. SSCA takes no responsibility and will not compensate for any lost or damaged artwork. By submitting this entry, I agree to give SSCA and Sister Cities International permission to publish and display the submitted entry at public exhibits, online, in publications and/or in promotional materials. I give SSCA permission to submit a digital copy of my work on my behalf to the Sister Cities International Competition if it becomes eligible by placing in the top 5 of winners. I agree to abide by all the rules and terms of the showcase and agree to waive all claims of any kind against the showcase organizers.</p>			
Parent Name		Parent Phone	
Parent Email		Student Email	
Student Signature		Date	
Parent Signature		Date	
<p>ART ENTRIES must be delivered on or before March 23 to: Sandra Zally, Scottsdale Artists' School 3720 N. Marshall Way, Scottsdale, AZ 85251 D. 480-584-6301 / C. 602-565-8035</p>		<p>WRITING ENTRIES must be sent electronically On or before March 23, 2026 to: info@scottsdalesistercities.com Please label as "YAAS ENTRY" in email subject line.</p>	
<p>More information: www.scottsdalesistercities.info Questions: email Sandra Zally at szally@scottsdaleartschool.org</p>			