



# CONTEST INFORMATION

## Here's How It Works . . .

First, each mayor promotes a **local contest** by the same name to select one local winner in each of the three categories:

- **Elementary School** (grades 4 – 5) – Poster (Photo of poster can be PNG, JPEG, or PDF files)
- **Middle School** (grades 6 – 8) – Essay (Word, PowerPoint, or online essay format)
- **High School** (grades 9 – 12) – Digital Media Presentation (MP4 or online video format)

Examples of winning entries from previous years for each category can be viewed at [www.oregonmayors.org](http://www.oregonmayors.org). Additional instructions for each of the categories are also available on the website.

Each mayor can design the local contest as they decide but do be aware of **the deadline of April 1, 2026** for the statewide competition. A sample flyer and entry form will be sent electronically to each city's manager/administrator/recorder and mayor for customization and reproduction in October 2025.

## **Ideas for Local Contests**

- Identify local prizes to be awarded by the city and paid for by the city for the local winners. Mayors are encouraged to identify local sponsors for additional exposure and prizes.
  - Cash award or gift card
  - Lunch with the mayor and/or shadow the mayor for a day
  - Article in local newspaper, city newsletter and/or city's website
- Increase participation in the contest by promoting it in a variety of ways.
  - City newsletter
  - Local newspapers
  - Visiting local schools
  - Announcing at city council meetings
  - Announcing at local service club meetings (Chamber, Rotary, etc.)
  - Youth organizations such as the scouts and after school programs

## **Statewide Competition Rules & Parameters**

Once your local contest is complete, submit no more than one winner from each category – elementary, middle, and high school (three total) – to Claire Wilson at OMA by the **deadline of April 1, 2026** to be eligible for the **statewide competition**.

- Previous statewide winners may participate, but are not eligible to receive a prize in the same category they have previously won in. However, they are eligible to receive a prize in a new category.
- One person per entry.
- Local winning submissions **must be received by April 1, 2026** to be considered in the statewide competition.
- Statewide winners are determined by OMA's Student Contest Selection Committee, comprised of mayors from across the state.
- The mayors of students who win in the statewide competition will be notified in May 2026. It is the responsibility of the mayor to notify the winners. The mayors of students who do not win will not be notified.
- Prizes for first, second, and third-place winners of the statewide competition are dependent on funding available. Prizes in 2025 included \$500.00 for first-place winners, \$300.00 for second-place winners and \$100.00 for third-place winners.
- First-place winners will be recognized by a press release sent to the local media, an acknowledgment in the OMA quarterly newsletter, and on the OMA website.
- Posters and other statewide contest entry materials become the property of the OMA when submitted.

Local winning submissions may be emailed  
by **April 1, 2026** to Claire Wilson | [cwilson@orcities.org](mailto:cwilson@orcities.org)  
OMA, 1201 Court St. NE #200 Salem, OR 97301

**Questions?** Contact Claire Wilson at (503) 588-6550 or [cwilson@orcities.org](mailto:cwilson@orcities.org)