SAVING MY ALACHUA

2027 Environmental Art Contest



Welcome to the 2027 Annual Saving My Alachua Environmental Art Contest! All Alachua County students enrolled in public, private, or home school grades K-12 are encouraged to create a work of art depicting their passion and ideas for being better stewards of our local environment. There is no fee to participate in this contest.

Teachers/Parents: Discuss the importance of a healthy environment with children and talk about ways they can help keep it healthy. Artwork should reflect the student's interest in the **local** environment **(be specific to Alachua County**) and address **one** of the following topics:

- Water Conservation
- Stormwater Pollution Prevention
- Natural Habitat Protection
- Wilderness and Wildlife Protection
- Proper Disposal of Toxic Waste
- Climate Related Issues

There will be a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner chosen for each grade from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Selected winners will be featured in the 2028 Saving My Alachua Calendar. Winning artwork will be displayed in the County Administration Building. All other artwork will be displayed in an exhibit at the Laniakea Montessori School. Submissions will become the property of Alachua County and may be reproduced.

Contest Rules:

- Read the **TIPS FOR ARTWORK SUBMISSION**!
- Artwork must reflect the student's interest in the **local** environment (**be specific to Alachua County**).
- Entries will be accepted from grades K-12.
- Submissions must be 8 ½" x 11" and must be presented horizontally (landscape).
- Artwork must be flat (no canvas or three-dimensional objects attached).
- All artwork must be original. No photographs.
- One entry per artist.
- Attach the entry form below to the back of the artwork (tape preferred; DO NOT STAPLE). Entries with incomplete, illegible information may be disqualified. (Fill out ALL fields neatly).
- **Deadline for artwork is February 12, 2027**

For more information, contact epd-reception@alachuacounty.us, 352-264-6800 or visit http://www.alachuacounty.us/depts/epd

This project is neither endorsed nor sponsored by the Alachua County Public Schools.

2027 Saving My Alachua Art Contest Entry Form – Attach to Artwork

The information below will be used to contact you if your artwork is amongst the winners and/or to return your artwork to you.
PLEASE PRINT NEATLY and fill in every section. Illegible or incomplete entries may be disqualified.

Artist's Full Name: _____ Grade: _____

Artwork Original Title (used in display and calendar):_____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Phone: _____

Parent's Email address (notifications will be sent to this address):_____

School Name: _____

Please select one of the following: ☐ **A**. Completed as part of a group assignment (school or art club project) OR
☐ **B**. Individual student art project

If **A,** please provide: Teacher Name: _____ Phone: _____

Teacher's Email address: _____

Deadline for artwork is Friday, February 12, 2027

Saving My Alachua- Tips for Artwork Submission

Top 3 reasons artwork is disqualified:

1. **The artwork was drawn vertically (portrait)** – Winning artwork is framed and displayed horizontally (landscape), and the *Saving My Alachua* Calendar is also printed horizontally. We cannot accommodate artwork that doesn't follow this rule.

2. **The artwork was too large, too small, or 3 dimensional** – Same as above. Winning artwork is framed and professionally scanned if selected for the calendar, so we cannot accommodate larger/smaller sizes or three-dimensional submissions. However, you can use certain multimedia techniques if they can lay flat and be scanned (for example, paper mosaic). If you cut your paper to size, PLEASE MEASURE CAREFULLY!

3. **The artwork does not reflect the local environment** – This is a tough one for so many of our young artists! Since the contest was created to highlight resources (plants and animals) and issues specific to Alachua County (hence the name "Saving My Alachua"), submissions must highlight local topics. Sorry, no lions, exotic birds, marine life, etc.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: I love the ocean and dolphins. Can I draw a marine scene for this contest?
Answer: The Saving My Alachua contest was created to highlight resources (plants and animals) and issues specific to Alachua County. Since this is not a coastal county, oceans and marine life are not appropriate subjects.

Q2: Can I submit photographs?
Answer: No, photographs are not accepted.

Q3: Can I sign my artwork?
Answer: Yes, but ***please keep signatures small*** and ideally locate them in a corner of the page at least ½ inch from the edge. This is because the judging is done anonymously so we cover up any signatures with labels (if you sign in the middle of the page, the judges will see a blank label covering up part of your artwork). ***Signatures should be at least ½ inch from the margins for scanning.***

Q4: The submission form asks for an "Original Artwork Title." What does that mean?
Answer: You can give your artwork an original title that fits your theme. Please do not simply list the topics on the contest flyer as the title. Be creative! A fun or compelling title can help get the judges' attention. A good title can also help us understand what message you want to convey.

Tips for teachers and parents – please share these guidelines with your students and help them select a subject that is appropriate for the contest (local environment). You may want to plan a lesson to introduce local issues before introducing the contest, or plan a field trip to an Alachua County preserve so your students can gain inspiration for their artwork. For the older grades (middle/high school), this contest could be assigned as extra credit to encourage participation.

Cut the entry form and tape it to the back of your artwork.