



2024 Ocean Awareness Contest

A CREATIVE CHALLENGE FOR TEENS WORLDWIDE

The 13th annual Ocean Awareness Contest is a platform for young people to learn about environmental issues through art-making and creative communication, explore their relationship to a changing world, and become advocates for positive change. Students ages 11-18 from around the world are invited to participate.

THEME

TELL YOUR CLIMATE STORY

We all experience climate change differently depending on where we live. As global temperatures rise, our weather patterns change, causing heat waves, drought, flooding, hurricanes, and more. While Kenya endured a fifth year of drought, Pakistan experienced unprecedented floods. Wildfires in Canada and the US have become a regular summer occurrence, but for islands in the Pacific, like Kiribati, sea level rise threatens their land and freshwater resources.

Perhaps you did not get any snow days last year due to an uncharacteristically warm winter, or you couldn't go to the beach due to harmful algal blooms. Maybe your favorite animal is at risk of losing its habitat, or your favorite foods are becoming harder to find at the grocery store. These are all symptoms of climate change.

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Humans burn fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas to generate electricity, power cars, and create plastic. These nonrenewable energy sources release greenhouse gasses, like carbon dioxide, trapping heat in our atmosphere and raising global temperatures. Until we reduce our carbon emissions, the effects of climate change will only become more common and more intense.

While you're experiencing some of these climate impacts, you may also be noticing climate solutions: more electric vehicles on the road, solar panels on houses in your neighborhood, composting efforts in your school, or your friends switching to plant-based diets. These are all effective ways for individuals to take action against climate change by reducing their carbon emissions.

Climate science is very data-driven. From the data, we know that climate change is happening and can project how it will impact weather, agriculture, and infrastructure. It is important to understand this, but often, the data feels too removed from day-to-day life. By telling your climate story, you can bridge the gap between the data and your reality. There's power in telling a personal story through art, writing, dance, film, and more. Through the arts, you can help people connect with these issues in a new and relevant way.

Your climate story does not have to be a catastrophe, like extreme weather or wildfires. You can focus on how climate change is altering how you eat, play sports, or make vacation plans. You can celebrate climate solutions in your community or initiatives that you have participated in, or share how you find strength and inspiration in our changing world. These are all part of your climate story. It can be cathartic to express your feelings about climate change, and we hope you will find community and realize that other people around the world are experiencing and feeling some of the same things you are.

Last year, we explored Climate Heroes who have taken steps to fight climate change, from organizing rallies, researching solutions, and raising awareness. Oftentimes, the catalyst that sparks their journey comes from their lived experiences – their climate stories. With that, we ask you to tell your climate story.

Submit online at: bowseat.org/contest

TELL YOUR CLIMATE STORY Prompt

Think about climate issues and solutions and consider how they have affected you or your community. Find something that resonates deeply with your experiences – perhaps a climate impact you witnessed, an initiative that you've participated in, or a source of strength and inspiration when thinking about the climate crisis. Share your personal climate story through art, writing, performance, film, or multimedia. What is the story that you'd like to tell?

Note: We are asking specifically about climate change and not other environmental concerns, like plastic pollution, oil spills, and overfishing. If you do choose to address these issues, make sure that you research how they connect to climate change and incorporate that into your submission.

Submissions Accepted in:

- Visual Art: Handcrafted
- Visual Art: Digital
- Creative Writing
- Film
- Poetry & Spoken Word
- Performing Arts
- Interactive & Multimedia

WHO MAY ENTER

Students from around the world are invited to participate in the Ocean Awareness Contest. Enter the division based on your age at the time of entry:

- **Junior Division:** Age 11-14
- **Senior Division:** Age 15-18

Students can participate as an individual or as a club, class, or group of any size.

All students must provide the contact information for an adult sponsor (teacher, parent, mentor, etc.).

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- **Gain knowledge** about climate change and its impact on our changing world. Dive into Bow Seat's Resource Studio to learn more about the issues; find artists and advocates taking innovative approaches to fight for our blue planet; and discover ways that you can get involved in protecting our futures.
- **Grow your skills** in communication, critical thinking, creativity, and environmental advocacy. Use your artwork to inspire climate action.
- **Build your portfolio** and make art in your preferred medium, or practice a new one! Add to your resume with a participation certificate.
- **Showcase your talents worldwide.** Through art exhibitions, publications, social media campaigns, and scholarships, Bow Seat uplifts diverse youth voices to advance dialogue and participation in environmental conservation and advocacy.
- **Join Bow Seat's global community** of more than 30,000 young people who care about the ocean, environmental justice, and climate action, and contribute to the largest youth environmental arts collection in the world.
- **Be eligible for special opportunities**, like the Future Blue Youth Council, a diverse group of young people working together to advance Bow Seat's mission and to empower fellow peers to advocate for the environment.
- **Earn cash awards** of up to \$1,000!

Creativity is Power

You play an important role in shaping the future world. Your creative voice has the ability to: expose what is happening to our blue planet; question the societal norms that have brought us to this point; reflect and reshape what it means to be a human in the 21st century; discover and advocate for solutions; and persuade others to take action.

AWARDS

Awards will be given in each of the categories at both the Junior and Senior divisions:

GOLD	\$1,000
SILVER	\$750
BRONZE	\$500
PEARL	\$250
HONORABLE MENTION	\$100

SPECIAL AWARDS OFFERED IN 2024

Visit bowseat.org/contest for more information.

We All Rise Prize (Black, Indigenous, and Latina/o/e students only)

As part of Bow Seat’s long-term effort to increase the diversity of our program participants, we sponsor the We All Rise Prize, awards totaling **\$5,000 specifically for youth in the U.S. who self-identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or Latine.**

Five \$500 awards in both the Junior Division (ages 11-14) and Senior Division (ages 15-18)—a total of 10 awards—will be offered to students in the U.S. who identify as Black, Indigenous, and/or Latine in the Ocean Awareness Contest, and whose entries demonstrate notable artistic achievement in their chosen category. Cash awards are not restricted and can be used for tuition, art supplies, or personal expenses. Select winners will also be featured in promotional materials for the following year’s We All Rise Prize.

Voice of the Sea Award (Spoken Word submissions only)

In partnership with poet/activist/educator Tayllor Johnson. As the Ocean Awareness Contest has grown over the years, young artists have continued to push the boundaries of our categories in ways that have intrigued and moved us. The Voice of the Sea Award was inspired by receiving a growing number of spoken word poems—pieces that truly came alive through performance. To celebrate this powerful mode of expression, Bow Seat recognizes two spoken word poetry submissions with Voice of the Sea Awards at the Gold-level in each age division: **one \$500 award for a Junior submission, and one \$500 award for a Senior submission.** Entries must follow the requirements for submitting in the Poetry & Spoken Word category.

Bay State Award (Massachusetts students only)

All students who reside in Massachusetts will be automatically considered for the Bay State Award, a special recognition to celebrate the creative young artists, thinkers, and activists in our home state. From the Housatonic River to the Quabbin Reservoir to the Atlantic Ocean, water connects us all and plays a wicked important role in the Commonwealth's economy, culture, and health of our human and non-human residents. Up to 3 winners in each age division will each receive a \$100 cash scholarship.

Hometown Award (Boston students only)

This award recognizes talented students in Bow Seat's hometown of Boston, Massachusetts. Eligible participants must demonstrate financial need. Up to 3 winners in each age division will each receive a \$100 cash scholarship.

South Coast, Cape & Island Award (Southeastern Massachusetts students only)

Thanks to the generosity of the Island Foundation—which is committed to the conservation of marine and coastal resources in southeastern Massachusetts—we will be offering two \$100 cash awards in each age division to Ocean Awareness Contest participants who reside on the South Coast of Massachusetts, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, or Nantucket.

Publishing, Exhibitions, and Special Opportunities

As a winner, you may have a special opportunity to showcase your talents worldwide while raising awareness of environmental issues to a broader community. Bow Seat organizes art exhibitions, pop-up art shows, and social media campaigns; curates anthologies of art and poetry; and finds opportunities to publish student writing. As part of Bow Seat's student collection, your creative piece will help to educate and inspire audiences to take action!

HOW TO ENTER

Step 1: Review & Research

Review the Theme & Prompt

The Ocean Awareness Contest theme changes every year. Be sure to review the description of the 2024 theme, *Tell Your Climate Story*, before starting your piece. Submissions are judged based on how well they address the annual theme. Your submission should respond to the prompt listed on Page 2.

Read the Rules

This is an international contest open to students ages 11-18. Make sure you read all of the Contest rules, submission requirements, and other details before you get started.

Do Your Research & Get Inspired

We have many resources on our website to help you get started on your submission. Explore Bow Seat's Resource Studio—a unique, curated space that includes inspirational artwork, journalistic media, primary literature, interactive quizzes, videos, and more—to learn about climate change and its impact on the ocean; find artists and organizations taking action for our blue planet; and discover how you can get involved in protecting our most vital resource. Visit [bowseat.org/resources](https://www.bowseat.org/resources).

Contest Deadline

The 2024 Ocean Awareness Contest deadline is Monday, June 10, 2024, at 11:59 PM Eastern Time (ET). Visit [bowseat.org/contest](https://www.bowseat.org/contest) to submit online.

Step 2: Create

Submission Categories

Please review all submission requirements carefully. Students may submit one entry per category, meaning that you may enter up to seven pieces, one in each category. If you submit more than one entry in a category (for example, two poems), additional entries will not be counted or judged.

Visual Art: Handcrafted

In the 2024 Contest, we are separating Handcrafted and Digital Art into distinct categories. In Visual Art: Handcrafted, we want to celebrate getting your hands “dirty” as part of the making process.

Visual Art: Handcrafted submissions may include:

- Drawing & illustration
- Painting
- Sculpture
- Land art
- Collage
- Printmaking
- Film photography
- Ceramics
- Fashion & jewelry
- Mixed media

Digital art should be submitted to the Visual Art: Digital category. AI-Generated Art is not permitted in the Ocean Awareness Contest.

Visit our student gallery for examples of visual art: bowseat.org/gallery

Submission Requirements:

- Accepted file types: JPG, PNG, GIF, or PDF.
- You may submit up to 3 images (different angles or details) of your submission.
- Make sure your files are high resolution, not crooked, and can easily be viewed.

Progress Photo (required): All Visual Art: Handcrafted submissions must include a progress photo or a photo of you standing with your completed work. These images will only be used to verify your artwork and not be considered in the judging process.

Reflection (required): All submissions must include a written reflection (artist’s statement) of at least 100 words. This will be a separate question on the submission form.

Works Cited (if applicable): Include a bibliography (any style) crediting sources and citing any ideas, facts, quotes, or existing media used in your artwork that are not your own.

We encourage you to learn from and be inspired by other environmental artists and designers as you create your piece. If your submission is influenced by someone else's work of art, or if your submission uses someone else's image/artwork/photograph as a reference, you must give credit to the original source in the Works Cited section.

Visual Art: Digital

In the 2024 Contest, we are separating Handcrafted and Digital Art into distinct categories. **We understand that Digital Art requires a different skill set than traditional art and is worth judging in its own category**

Visual Art: Digital submissions may include:

- Graphic design
- Digital illustration
- Coding art
- GIFs
- Digital photography
- Data visualization
- Infographics
- 3D modeling & printing

AI-Generated Art is not permitted in the Ocean Awareness Contest.

Visit our student gallery for examples of visual art: bowseat.org/gallery

Submission Requirements:

- Accepted file types: JPG, PNG, GIF, or PDF.
- You may submit up to 3 images (different angles or details) of your submission.
- Make sure your files are high resolution, not crooked, and can easily be viewed.

Progress Photo (required): All Visual Art: Digital submissions must include a screenshot of your submission in progress or in the program used to create it. These images will only be used to verify your artwork and not be considered in the judging process.

Reflection (required): All submissions must include a written reflection (artist's statement) of at least 100 words. This will be a separate question on the submission form.

Works Cited (if applicable): Include a bibliography (any style) crediting sources and citing any ideas, facts, quotes, or existing media used in your artwork that are not your own.

We encourage you to learn from and be inspired by other environmental artists and designers as you create your piece. If your submission is influenced by someone else's work of art, or if your submission uses someone else's image/artwork/photograph as a reference, you must give credit to the original source in the Works Cited section.

Creative Writing

Submissions may include fiction (e.g., short stories) or creative nonfiction (e.g., personal narratives, blog posts, or journalistic writing). Visit our student gallery for examples of creative writing: bowseat.org/gallery

Submission Requirements:

- Document should be in 12-point type, Times New Roman font; double-spaced with 1-inch margins.
- Include the title of your work at the beginning of this document. Do not include identifying information such as student name and school.
- Accepted file types: Word documents (.doc or .docx) or PDF.
- Your submission must be written in English.
- Submission length:
 - Junior Division: Up to 3 pages (approximately 750 words)
 - Senior Division: Up to 5 pages (approximately 1,250 words)

Reflection (required): All submissions must include a written reflection (artist’s statement) of at least 100 words. This will be a separate question on the submission form.

Works Cited (if applicable): Use in-text citations (parenthetical or footnotes, in any style) and include a bibliography (any style) for any ideas, facts, and quotes that are not your own. Works cited are not included in submission length.

AI-generated writing is not permitted in the Ocean Awareness Contest.

Film

Submissions may include (but are not limited to) narrative films, live action films, hand-drawn or computer-generated animation, documentaries, or experimental film. Visit our student gallery for examples of film: bowseat.org/gallery

Submission Requirements:

- Films must be 2-4 minutes in length.
- Upload your film to Google Drive (preferred), YouTube, or Vimeo and provide the public URL on the submission form. Ensure that your video is not private.
- Include a title and credits in the film itself for any information, images, audio, or video clips that are not your own. Bow Seat encourages you to use original, copyright-free, or public domain images, footage, and music.
- Name your film as “2024 Ocean Awareness Contest – Film Title”.
- Your submission must be in English or have English subtitles if narration is in a language other than English.

Reflection (required): All submissions must include a written reflection (artist's statement) of at least 100 words. This will be a separate question on the submission form.

Works Cited (if applicable): Include a bibliography (any style) crediting sources and citing any ideas, facts, quotes, or existing media used in your work that are not your own.

AI-Generated work is not permitted in the Ocean Awareness Contest.

Interactive & Multimedia

The Interactive & Multimedia category invites submissions that integrate creative communication and interactive or participatory elements, or which combine three or more of the other submission categories. Visit our student gallery for examples of interactive and multimedia: bowseat.org/gallery

Submissions may include, but are not limited to:

- Websites or apps
- Social media campaigns
- Games (video games or board games)
- Installations
- Podcasts

Note: Digital paintings and graphic design should be submitted in the Visual Art: Digital category. Ceramics should be submitted to Visual Art: Handcrafted. Animated films should be submitted in the Film category. Please contact us at info@bowseat.org if you have questions about Interactive & Multimedia submissions.

Submission Requirements:

- Interactive & Multimedia submissions must include a short written description of your concept or description of use (for example: instructions of app use; gameplay summary; description of viewer interaction; or description of how the submission combines multiple categories or media forms). This will be a separate question on the submission form.
- You must provide up to 5 images, screenshots, or supporting text documents that illustrate your work. Accepted file types: JPG, PDF, PNG, GIF, or Word (.doc or .docx).
- You may also provide a link to browser-based works, as well as a video of gameplay or demonstrating projects in use (optional). If provided, videos must be shorter than 5 minutes and uploaded to Google Drive (preferred), YouTube, or Vimeo (ensure they are not private).

- Audio files in MP3 format may also be uploaded (optional). If you are creating a podcast, we recommend an episode length of 5-15 minutes, and you must provide a written script.

Reflection (required): All submissions must include a written reflection (artist’s statement) of at least 100 words. This will be a separate question on the submission form.

Works Cited (if applicable): Include a bibliography (any style) crediting sources and citing any ideas, facts, quotes, or existing media used in your work that are not your own.

AI-Generated work is not permitted in the Ocean Awareness Contest.

Performing Arts: Music & Dance

Submissions may be original compositions or song parodies in any musical genre, or dance performances in any style. Visit our student gallery for examples of music and dance:

bowseat.org/gallery

Submission Requirements:

- Record a video of yourself performing the work. The video may include other images or video, but must contain footage of your performance* or composition process. (*Screen captures of digital instruments are acceptable for electronic or digital music.)
- Submissions should be 2-4 minutes in length.
- Upload your performance to Google Drive (preferred), YouTube or Vimeo and provide the public URL on the submission form. Ensure that your video is not private.
- Name your video as “2024 Ocean Awareness Contest –Title”.
- If your Music submission has lyrics, you must upload a Word (.doc or .docx) or PDF document of your song lyrics (in English). You may include lyrics as captions in the video (recommended). If your song is performed in a language other than English, you must provide an English translation of the lyrics.
- Include a title and credits in the video for any information, images, audio, or video clips that are not your own. Bow Seat encourages you to use original, copyright-free, or public domain images, footage, and music.

Reflection (required): All submissions must include a written reflection (artist’s statement) of at least 100 words. This will be a separate question on the submission form.

Works Cited (if applicable): Include a bibliography (any style) crediting sources and citing any ideas, facts, or quotes used in your work that are not your own. If you create a song parody, you must clearly credit the original songwriter. Bow Seat encourages you to use original, copyright-free, or public domain images, footage, and music.

AI-Generated music is not permitted in the Ocean Awareness Contest.

Poetry & Spoken Word

Submissions may be free or formal verse, or spoken word poetry. Visit our student gallery for examples of poetry: bowseat.org/gallery

Submission Requirements:

- Format your submission in 12-point type, Times New Roman font, single-spaced with 1-inch margins.
- Include the title of your poem at the top of the page. Do not include identifying information such as student name and school.
- Accepted file types: Word documents (.doc or .docx) or PDF.
- Your submission must be written in English.
- Submission length:
 - Junior Division: no more than 1 page
 - Senior Division: no more than 2 pages

Reflection (required): All submissions must include a written reflection (artist's statement) of at least 100 words. This will be a separate question on the submission form.

Works Cited (if applicable): Include a bibliography (any style) crediting sources and citing any ideas, facts, or quotes used in your work that are not your own. Works cited are not included in submission length.

Spoken Word Video (optional): You may include a video of you performing your poem. You must upload your video to Google Drive (preferred), YouTube or Vimeo and provide the video URL in your online submission form. Please ensure that your video is not private. Do NOT submit a Word or PDF document with a link to the video. **All spoken word submissions will be automatically considered for the Voice of the Sea Award.**

AI-generated writing is not permitted in the Ocean Awareness Contest.

Write Your Reflection

A written reflection is required to accompany your submission, regardless of category. It is like the introduction to a book or an artist's statement in a museum. The judges will not lower your score for a poorly written reflection, but writing a thoughtful and personal

reflection will certainly help the judges understand you and your work better, and you will likely do better in the Ocean Awareness Contest!

Your reflection should describe 1) your creative process and 2) what you have learned through your exploration of the Ocean Awareness Contest theme, *Tell Your Climate Story*. Use the following questions to guide your writing:

- What inspired your work and creative process?
- Why are you interested in the arts?
- What feelings did the process of creating (art, writing, film, music, dance, interactive/multimedia) raise for you?
- What is your message to viewers of your artwork?
- After doing research on climate change, what have you learned?
- Beyond individual actions like recycling, what actions will you collectively engage in with your community to tackle climate change?

Reflection Requirements:

- Length: Minimum of 100 words
- Your reflection must be written in English

Step 3: Submit

Students must create an account and submit their work through our online system. If you are submitting multiple works, you only need to create one account. Bow Seat cannot accept submissions via email or physical mail. Visit bowseat.org/contest to access the submission platform. **Preview the submission form on Page 17.**

The Ocean Awareness Contest deadline is June 10, 2024.

Submission Checklist:

- Your contact information
- Your submission (Visual Art: Handcrafted, Visual Art: Digital, Creative Writing, Film, Interactive & Multimedia, Performing Arts: Music & Dance, Poetry & Spoken Word)
- A title for your submission
- Your written reflection
- Works cited (if applicable): List of sources for any ideas, quotes, or facts used that are not your own
- Contact information for an adult sponsor (required for all participants)
- Parent/guardian consent (required if under 13 years old). See pages 19-20 for more information

Once you create an account and start a submission, you will have the opportunity to save your work and continue at another time.

Teachers: You may create a single account under your name and submit multiple entries on behalf of your class, but you must submit separate entries for each individual student, unless they are participating as a group.

Step 4: Connect & Continue

Share Your Work

Thank you for participating! You have contributed to the largest youth environmental arts collection in the world, and are part of Bow Seat's global community of more than 30,000 young people and counting who are using their creative voices to speak up for our blue planet.

Share this opportunity with other artists, writers, filmmakers, musicians, dancers, digital media mavens, environmental activists, and ocean lovers you know! By giving young people an opportunity to think creatively about conservation, and a platform for you to express your ideas, we hope to create a wave of awareness and impact around the world. Tag us **@fromthebowseat** if you share your work online so we can spread the love!

JUDGING

The 2024 Ocean Awareness Contest results will be announced in November 2024. Winners and their sponsors will be notified via email before the results are publicly announced.

Bow Seat judges are artists, writers, teachers, scientists, and of course, ocean-lovers! Each year, we also invite a cohort of Bow Seat student alumni and emerging artists to participate in Contest judging. Meet the team at bowseat.org/about/our-team.

Judges consider:

- How well submissions address the annual theme of the Contest;
- Demonstration of artistic voice, originality, and imagination;
- Craftsmanship, including quality, technique, and skill in chosen medium; attention to detail; and accuracy in communicating issues; and
- If a submission meets category requirements (such as length, file type, etc.).

Judging begins immediately after the Contest ends, and we take the time to fairly judge each and every entry to the Contest. We receive thousands of entries, and our team of judges puts in thousands of hours of cumulative work each year reviewing your submissions.

We know that you're anxious to hear Contest results. We take an enormous amount of pride in the care we put into the Contest, and we appreciate your patience as we continue to do so!

INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS & SPONSORS

All student participants are required to provide the contact information for an Adult Sponsor. This can be a teacher, parent, guardian, mentor, coach, or other supporting adult.

Whether you are a teacher who assigned the Contest as a class project, a parent helping your child explore their creative potential, or an adult who was asked to be a sponsor for a student submitting on their own, your responsibilities are simple: all we need is to be able to contact you in case we have problems getting in touch with your sponsored student.

When your student submits their work, they will be asked to provide your name and email address. You will receive a confirmation email once they submit so that you can have it on record as well.

We have many resources in our new Resource Studio—including articles, lesson plans, and videos—to help you and your student learn more about issues related to climate change, and to support project inspiration and planning. Visit bowseat.org/resources.

For Sponsors of Participating Students Under the Age of 13: Parent/Guardian Consent Forms (Page 19-20) are required for any participating student under the age of 13. On the first page of the online Contest submission form, select "Yes" to the question "Are you under 13 years old?" and choose an option:

1. **Provide Consent Electronically.** This option sends an electronic Consent Letter to the parent or guardian specified for an e-signature.
2. **Upload Parent/Guardian Consent Form.** This option allows you to upload a signed version of the PDF form. If you would like to upload multiple Consent Forms, combine all forms into one PDF or email the individual forms to us (see below).
3. **Email Parent/Guardian Consent Form.** Choose this option if you would like to email us at info@bowseat.org one or multiple signed Consent Forms, and we will add them to the student's submission.

Educator Innovation Awards

Many of our sponsors are teachers who effectively and creatively bring the Contest into their classrooms, teaching entire groups of students about environmental issues and empowering them to be stewards of our blue planet, while meeting important educational standards. To recognize their efforts, Bow Seat grants nomination-based Educator Innovation Awards of \$500. Visit bowseat.org/resources/for-teachers for details.

Rules & Eligibility

Competition Period

All submissions must be received by June 10, 2024, at 11:59 PM Eastern Time (ET) to be considered in the 2024 Ocean Awareness Contest. The online platform will close automatically at the Contest deadline. Please plan accordingly!

Who May Enter

- This is an international Contest and is open to students ages 11-18 who are enrolled in middle school or high school (or the homeschool equivalent) worldwide. Proof of age, identity, or eligibility may be required.
- Students ages 11-14 may enter the Junior Division. Students ages 15-18 may enter the Senior Division. Please enter the age division based on your age at the time of entry.
- Participants under the age of 13 must have a parent or legal guardian complete a Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) Parent/Guardian Consent Form with their submission. See Pages 19-20.
- Entries may be submitted by an individual or group of unlimited size. If you submit as a group, there must be one group leader who will serve as the contact person for the group. All of the names of the group members must be listed in the submission. Award money will be split evenly among the group members.
- Any student may submit (i.e., have their name included in) only one entry per category. Therefore, a student may have a maximum of seven different submissions, one in each category.

How to Enter

- There is no fee to enter the Contest.
- Students must create an account and submit their work through our online system by the Contest deadline: June 10, 2024, at 11:59 PM Eastern Time (ET). Bow Seat cannot accept submissions via email or physical mail.
- Students must provide the contact information for an Adult Sponsor: a teacher, parent, guardian, mentor, or other supporting adult.
- Entries submitted previously to the Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Contest will not be considered in the 2024 Contest. Submissions must be created during the 2023-24 academic year (or between September 2023 and June 2024).
- All entries must be the students' original work. While we recognize that existing sources will be used for inspiration and research, Bow Seat reserves the right to disqualify an entry at any time if we suspect or determine plagiarism. The use of AI-generators is considered plagiarism. Any participant who submits AI-generated work will be disqualified and their sponsor will be notified.
- Entries must be submitted in English or have an English translation in order to be considered for judging.

Additional

- By entering the Ocean Awareness Contest, you agree to Bow Seat's Terms of Use (bowseat.org/terms-of-use).
- Bow Seat promises to run this Contest fairly, ethically, and with integrity.
- All judging decisions are final.
- All winners and their sponsors will be notified by email before they are publicly announced.
- Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Programs reserves the right to use students' work for marketing and promotional purposes in any and all media.
- Winners will be required to verify their eligibility by completing an Affidavit of Eligibility/Liability Release, and, where lawful, a Publicity Release during the award claim process.

Submission Form Preview

To get started, create an account in our [online submission platform](#). If you are a teacher submitting on behalf of a class, or a student submitting in more than one category, you can use one account for multiple submissions. Please be sure to review all [Contest rules](#) and guidelines before starting your submission. **Deadline to submit: June 10, 2024.**

PAGE 1: PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Participant Full Name

Email Address We will use the Primary Contact email address for submission and winner notifications.

Are you participating as an individual or a group? Group member names and email addresses are required for group entries.

Category Visual Art: Handcrafted, Visual Art: Digital/Creative Writing/Film/Interactive & Multimedia/Performing Arts: Music & Dance/Poetry & Spoken Word

Age Division Junior Division (Age 11-14) or Senior Division (Age 15-18)

Participant Age Parent/Guardian consent is required for students under the age of 13. See Pages 19-20 for more information.

Hometown or City, U.S. State (if applicable), and Country

Demographic Information (optional) We ask for information on gender and ethnic identity to help us better understand who participates in our program.

PAGE 2: SCHOOL & SPONSOR INFORMATION

School Name

Adult Sponsor Name and Email Address A sponsor can be any adult, but is typically a parent, guardian, or teacher. Your sponsor will receive a confirmation email when you submit to the Contest.

PAGE 3: SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Submission Title

Medium, Dimensions, and Progress Photo Visual Art Categories only

Performing Arts: Music Genre and Lyrics **OR** Dance Style Performing Arts Category only

Upload Submission See [How to Enter page](#) for full category requirements

Description of Submission Interactive & Multimedia Category only; See [How to Enter page](#) for full category requirements

Video Link (Google Drive (preferred), YouTube, or Vimeo) Film and Performing Arts, required; Poetry and Interactive & Multimedia, optional

Browser-Based Media Link Interactive & Multimedia Category, optional

Upload Audio File Interactive & Multimedia Category, optional. If you create a podcast, you must provide a written script.

Works Cited List the sources of any ideas, facts, media, or quotes used in your work that are not your own.

Reflection (minimum 100 words) Required. Your reflection should describe 1) your creative process and 2) what you have learned through your exploration of the Ocean Awareness Contest theme, *Tell Your Climate Story*.

PAGE 5: FINALIZE & SUBMIT

Submissions may be saved as a draft in progress, but cannot be edited once they are finalized. Students and sponsors will receive an email confirmation upon successful submission.



Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) Privacy Notice

Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) requires that we gain verifiable consent for your child to participate in a Bow Seat-sponsored program. We are asking for your permission to retain your child's information (name, email, hometown, grade level, and school) and adult sponsor's (teacher, parent/guardian) name and email in order to track student participation, accept student submissions, notify winners, and distribute awards. If you consent, we may use your child's name, grade, and hometown (city, state (if USA) and/or city, country) in program-related outreach.

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Your child is participating in a program hosted by Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Programs ("Bow Seat"), an educational nonprofit. Bow Seat's mission is to engage youth in environmental conservation and advocacy through the creative arts.

To participate, your child must provide his/her personal information (first and last name, email, grade level, hometown, and school); his/her project; and an adult sponsor's first and last name and email. Since your child is under the age of 13, the information collected will be kept confidential in compliance with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA).

Bow Seat is the sole owner of all of the information that is collected.

- The personal information provided by the child is used to track program participation, accept student projects, notify program winners, and distribute awards.
- Only with parent/guardian consent, the child's name, grade, and hometown (city, state (if USA) and/or city, country) may be used to promote the program. This includes, but is not limited to, outreach via social media, websites, organizational literature, and at events.
- Bow Seat will not require a child to disclose more information than is reasonably necessary to participate in the program.
- No information will be disclosed to third parties.
- The parent can review the child's personal information, ask to have it deleted, and refuse to allow any further collection or use of the child's information.

Please complete the attached Parent/Guardian Consent Form. If you have any inquiries or concerns regarding Bow Seat's programming, please email info@bowseat.org.



Parent/Guardian Consent Form

I, _____, the parent or legal guardian of _____,
(PRINT PARENT/GUARDIAN NAME) (PRINT CHILD'S NAME)

have reviewed Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Programs' COPPA Privacy Notice. By signing below, I authorize my child to provide personal information for and to participate in a Bow Seat program.

By checking the "Yes" box below, I acknowledge that my child's name, grade, and hometown (city, state (if USA) and/or city, country) may be used to promote Bow Seat's programs.

- Yes**, my child's first and last name, grade, and hometown (city, state (if USA) and/or city, country) may be used to promote Bow Seat's programs.

- No**, my child's first and last name, grade, and hometown (city, state (if USA) and/or city, country) may not be used to promote Bow Seat's programs.

I also understand that it is important to provide accurate information on this consent form so that Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Programs may contact me.

Parent/Guardian Signature:

Date:

Parent/Guardian Email Address:

Parent/Guardian Phone Number:

Please email this signed form to info@bowseat.org or upload it with your student's submission on Bow Seat's online submission platform.