

Constitution Week Poster Contest 2026

Sponsored by the Constitution Week Committee, NSDAR
Nancy Reber Davis, National Chair constitutionweek@nsdar.org

Celebrate the Spirit and Meaning of the United States Constitution through Art.

Poster artwork done in 2026 for judging in 2027

What the national winning artist receives: nationwide recognition, reproduction of the original artwork and distribution of the winning poster through the DAR Store.

Who may enter?	The contest is open to DAR members and members of the general public, of all ages and genders. Everyone is judged in the same group using the same criteria. There are no age categories.
What is the theme?	All entries must illustrate “The Spirit and Meaning of the United States Constitution.”
When is it due?	Entries must be submitted to the sponsoring DAR chapter by January 1 st . No late entries will be judged.
How does judging advance?	There are four rounds: Chapter, State, Division, and National. First Place entries advance to the next round.

	Requirements/
✓	Entry form: Each original artwork entry must be accompanied by an Entry Form.
✓	Original artwork: Artwork must be original and created only by hand by the submitting artist.
✓	Paper only: Artwork must be created on paper suitable for the medium. The original copy must be submitted.
✓	Size: Entries must measure 11 x 17 inches. No exceptions.
✓	Theme: Artwork must illustrate “The Spirit and Meaning of the United States Constitution.”
✓	Required wording on the artwork: The phrase “Constitution Week 17-23 September” <u>must</u> appear on the artwork in letters no less than 2 1/2 inches high. <i>(Do not include year.)</i>
✓	Signature: The artist may sign the back of the artwork in pencil. Do not sign the front.
✓	Flag Code: Artwork that includes a United States flag must comply with the U.S. Flag Code. Artists may depict any official U.S. flag used throughout American history, including historical versions with different numbers of stars. All flags should be portrayed respectfully and should not have words, symbols, logos, or artwork placed directly on the flag itself.
✓	Submission route: DAR members should notify their chapter Constitution Week chair and/or chapter regent. Non-DAR members must be sponsored by a DAR chapter.

	Not Allowed
✗	No copies: Copies of original art pieces will not be accepted. Submit the original artwork only.
✗	No AI or computer-assisted design: AI composition assistance or computer-assisted design is prohibited. Such artwork will be disqualified.
✗	No mounted, matted, or framed artwork.
✗	No 3-dimensional artwork, decorations, raised surfaces, or applied objects.
✗	Do not roll the artwork when forwarding it. Pack it flat to protect artwork integrity.
✗	Do not expect artwork to be returned. The submitting artist must surrender the original artwork.

Accepted Artistic Mediums and Genres

- Entries may be in color or black and white.
- Artwork must represent one or more of the following genres: landscape, still life, portrait, realism, impressionist, traditionalist, new school, and dot work (pointillist).
- All types of paint, pen, pencil, and/or marker may be used. This includes oil, acrylic, watercolor paints and pencils, charcoal, pastels, pencil, and ink.
- If pastel or charcoal medium is used, please use a suitable spray to affix it.
- Knife application is not recommended as it may affect print clarity and reproducibility.
- Text and/or images cut from printed materials such as newspapers and magazines.

Submission Reminders

- Each submitting artist may submit one or two entries.
- Only submit the original artwork on paper with the entry form.
- The original artwork cannot be returned.
- Entries must be received by the sponsoring DAR chapter by January 1st.

Judging Guidelines

All entries are judged on: Visual appeal and adherence to the “Spirit and Meaning of the United States Constitution,” and the rules. There is a 100-point scale:

- Originality (1-15 points)
- Adherence to the rules of the medium and genre (1-10 points)
- Adherence to the theme “Spirit and Meaning of the U.S. Constitution” (1-10 points)
- Composition (1-10 points)
- Continuity and clarity (1-10 points)
- Spelling, punctuation, and grammar (1-10 points)
- Historical consistency and presentation (1-25 points)
- Reproducibility (1-10 points)

Chapter Submission Information

Sponsoring DAR Chapter	Fort Caspar Chapter
Chapter Contact	Anne Holman
Email / Phone	FortCasparChapter@WyDAR.org

Contest Rounds and Deadlines

Round	What happens	Honors	Next deadline
Chapter	Chapter judges select First, Second, Third Place, and Honorable Mention. First Place advances to the State Chair.	Chapter level	Received by chapter by Jan. 1 ; First Place forwarded by Jan. 15
State	State judges select First, Second, Third Place, and Honorable Mention. First Place advances to the Division Vice Chair.	State level	Forwarded by Feb. 25
Division	Division judges select First, Second, Third Place, and Honorable Mention. First Place advances to the National Chair.	Division level	Forwarded by Mar. 15
National	National judges select First, Second, Third Place, and Honorable Mention. First Place is the National Winner.	National level	Winning poster available through the DAR Store by Continental Congress

Selection of Judges

The Chairs at all four levels will invite three people to serve as judges. Suggested judges include American history teachers, local artists, librarians, historians, and members of the SAR. They do not need to be DAR members.

CONSTITUTION WEEK POSTER CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Name of entrant _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

Chapter Name Fort Caspar Chapter Chapter Code 7003WY

Chapter Location Casper, Wyoming NSDAR Division Northwest

I (entrant) hereby state that I have created the original art piece, and in signing below, I grant permission to the National Society to REPRODUCE my entry FOR SALE.

Entrant Signature _____ Member # (if applicable) _____

Parent/Guardian signature (if entrant is a minor) _____

Illuminate our Legacy! Celebrate Constitution Week!