

General Contest Rules

Objective

To document expectations that apply to project entries across all TYCA categories and divisions.

General Contest Rules

1. A student may be associated with only one entry per contest category, either as an individual or as part of a group. For example, a student may enter only one black and white photo.
2. A sponsoring library may submit up to 10 entries per contest category and age group division. For example, a sponsoring library may submit up to 10 Black and White category PK-2 division entries, and up to 10 entries for each of the other Black and White division age groups.
3. Projects must be the original creative property of the student(s) and accompanied by a statement of purpose explaining why the student created this submission.

Statement of Purpose: Write a brief statement in which you explain the purpose, inspiration, and process behind your work. Share what you aimed to communicate and how you approached creating your piece.

Ex: "I made this ___ because ___... ; I used the tool(s) ___... ; I did best on the part where___..."

Note: All entries must be created by the student(s). Submissions should reflect their original work and not simply feature students as actors or subjects.

4. Entries submitted in a language other than English must include an English translation, transcript, or captions when applicable. This ensures that judges are able to fully understand and fairly evaluate the work.
5. Projects must be accessible online via a public or private link (URL) provided as part of the entry process.
6. Link to project must be submitted through the online form by the entry deadline listed on the Texas Youth Creator Awards website.

Note: Submissions that cannot be viewed or opened due to permission restrictions or access issues will be disqualified. To ensure submissions are accessible, it is strongly recommended that each project be tested by sharing it with individuals outside the submitting school or organization to ensure it can be accessed without issue.

7. Students may use any tools and materials to create the project, including software and content. A list of the tools and materials used must be supplied as a part of the entry process – including AI tools if used. **Submissions that do not include a list of tools and materials used—including any AI tools—will be disqualified.**

Note: While the use of AI tools to assist in the creation process of project(s) is not prohibited, the Texas Youth Creators Award committee strongly encourages participants to rely on their own creativity and ideas. Authenticity and a genuine personal voice are highly valued in the judging process, as they allow the committee to better see your unique skills and innovation.

AI Use Disclosure Agreement: If artificial intelligence (AI) tools were used at any stage of the project, participants must disclose their use by including the following statement with their submission: "I used AI tools for specific aspects of this project, including: (Please list specific

examples, such as getting ideas, checking grammar, creating designs, etc.). All AI-generated content was created under my direct guidance and supervision. I made all final decisions myself, and the project shows my own ideas and work."

8. Any copyrighted materials must be identified and attributed and entrants must adhere to all copyright restrictions. No specific citation style is required, but credits must be clear and complete.

Include:

- Source name/title
- Origin (website, author, platform, etc.)
- Link (if available)

9. Entry fees must be postmarked by the entry deadline listed on the Texas Youth Creator Awards website and must include:
 - a. [Completed submission spreadsheet](#) (if entry fee for multiple projects are paid at once, all projects can be included in one spreadsheet)
 - b. Fee payment

All payments can be mailed to:

**Texas Youth Creator Awards
Texas Library Association
3420 Executive Center Dr., Ste. 301
Austin, TX 78731**

Permission to Share and Promote

By submitting an entry to the Texas Youth Creators Awards (TYCA), participants grant the Texas Library Association (TLA) and the TYCA Committee permission to share their work on the TYCA website, in online media, and in other promotional materials. Submitted projects may be used to showcase student creativity and promote the TYCA program.