

CONTEST DETAILS AND BACKGROUND

The Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) and the Texas American Water Works Association (TAWWA) are seeking talented young artists for the Imagine a Day Without Water (IDWW) Art Contest.

Contest Overview:

- Ages: Kindergarten – 6th Grade
- Entry Deadline: October 30, 2026
- Theme: World of Water / How does water enrich your world?



Purpose of the Contest

Imagine a Day Without Water (<https://imagineadaywithoutwater.org/>) is a national campaign to raise awareness of the value of water in our lives. As the leading water/wastewater professional organizations in Texas, WEAT and TAWWA organized this art contest to engage the next generation and encourage them to be environmental stewards. We hope you will see this as an opportunity to combine your lessons on environmental science and the water cycle with artistic projects to spur discussion and creativity.



What do teachers / parents / organizers need to do?

We ask that you incorporate the art contest on its own or as part of another water-based educational activity. This could be a short lesson or a long-term project in which learners add to their artwork over time. Because water is an essential resource, there are no limits to the topics you can discuss, and we have provided some resources within this packet. When your activities are complete, please collect entries from your students and send the artwork to us for judging by the contest deadline.

GROUP ORGANIZERS: We'd love to hear how you're celebrating the contest and offer WEAT/TAWWA volunteer support, if needed! Contact Nyla Hubbard (nyla.hubbard@kimley-horn.com) and Gabe Trejo (gabe.trejo@arcadis.com)

Tips for Success

Pretty pictures are always nice, but contest entries really stand out when they show an understanding of topics such as conservation, water quality, protecting the environment and aquatic ecosystems, and the need for water in all aspects of our lives such as growing food, manufacturing clothing and electronics, improving health, and supporting community development and the overall economy. That is why we suggest pairing the art activity with age-appropriate lessons or experiments.

If you'd like to invite a WEAT/TAWWA volunteer to your classroom for guest presentations or STEM support, please contact us or find a local contact person at: <https://TexasWaterEd.org/>



Prizes

- Up to 13 overall winners will be selected and their artwork will be featured in the annual WEAT/TAWWA Imagine a Day Without Water Calendar for the upcoming year
- Winners chosen for the calendar will receive a complimentary calendar AND a prize
- Special prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place winners (*special prizes awarded in the past include gift cards, annual passes to theme parks, KiwiCo subscriptions, and other STEM activity kits*)
- The sponsoring/organizing teachers who assisted the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place winners will also receive a prize (*\$50 gift cards in past years*)

A live online celebration will also be held to announce the contest winners and share other water-themed activities. Winners will be notified in advance and may have opportunity to speak during the program.



Art Contest Rules

Theme: [World of Water / How does water enrich your world?](#)

Ages: Kindergarten – 6th Grade

Requirements:

- Texas students in K-6th Grade are eligible (homeschool and individual entries are welcome)
- Limited to one entry per student
- Must include a completed entry form
- Artwork must be original – no copyrighted products or images allowed
- Any digital art must be developed under educator/parent guidance (no AI artwork allowed)
- Entries must be 8.5"x11" size, horizontal layout (landscape) is preferred
- Do NOT write your name on the front of the artwork (to ensure anonymous judging)
- MEDIA RELEASE: By entering the contest, you agree that all submitted artwork may be featured in WEAT and AWWA publications and social media platforms.

How to Enter (choose one!)

Send your artwork and entry form using one of these methods:

✉ EMAIL art & entry form	✉ MAIL art & entry form	💻 ONLINE FORM (all in one)
nyla.hubbard@kimley-horn.com Subject line should include: IDWW Art Contest – Student Name – Grade Level Example: <i>IDWW Art Contest – John Doe – 1st Grade</i>	Nyla Hubbard Kimley-Horn 13455 Noel Road Two Galleria Office Tower, Ste 700 Dallas, TX 75240	 You must sign into a Google account

Educational Resources

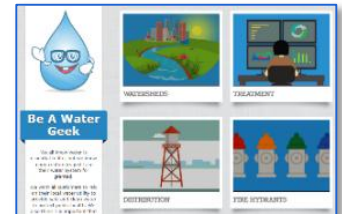
Your Local Water Utility: *The best resource for knowledge about your local watershed, water supply, and distribution/sewer system will come from your utility / water provider! Even if your utility does not have public education/outreach staff, they may communicate important information through social media, newsletters, or billing inserts. Make sure to connect with them and show your support!*

Free Volunteer Support from WEAT/TAWWA: *If your utility cannot assist with education activities, our members are available in many parts of Texas. Contact the contest chairs to request support OR find your regional education contact at: <https://TexasWaterEd.org/>*

National IDWW Inspiration: *K-12 educational resources you can use in class or at home are available at:*

- <https://imagineadaywithoutwater.org/>
- <https://uswateralliance.org/programs/the-value-of-water-campaign/imagine-a-day-without-water/resources-students/>
- <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/watersense-kids>

TAWWA “Be A Water Geek” Videos: *The TAWWA Education Division produced these animated videos covering a variety of topics such as watersheds, treatment, distribution, and fire hydrants. Each video is less than 3 minutes long; Spanish versions are also available. <https://vimeopro.com/texasawwa/watergeek-videos>*



Water Footprint: *Water is necessary to grow the food we eat and manufacture the electronics we depend on every day. On this website, you can look up the water footprint for different products and countries, or calculate your personal water footprint as part of an individual activity or group discussion: <https://waterfootprint.org/en/water-footprint/>*

- Each t-shirt produced uses 659 gallons of water
- 1.7 liters of water are used to produce 2 liters of soda
- 42 gallons of water are needed to make one slice of pizza



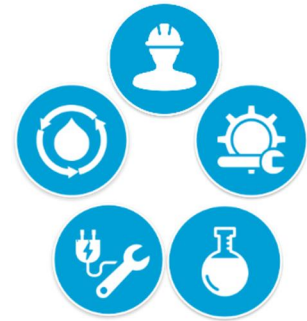
Water for People: *WFP is a nonprofit organization that helps communities around the world to build water and sanitation systems. The resources below provide some background on their work and can help people understand the value of our own water/wastewater utilities.*

- Facts on the global water crisis: <https://www.waterforpeople.org/the-global-water-crisis/>
- “40 Billion Hours” video (<2 min): <https://vimeo.com/49014417>

Documentary Films: *Explore the themes of water supply, conservation, infrastructure investment, and the value of water by watching any of these recent water-related films:*

- *Deep in the Heart 2: Texas Rivers* (2026)
- *Ocean with David Attenborough* (2025)
- *Brave Blue World* (2020)
- *Our Blue World: A Water Odyssey* (2024)
- *Water for Life* (2024)
- *The Grab* (2024)

Careers in Water: *The water/wastewater industry offers a wide range of rewarding careers where individuals can give back to the community while enjoying recession-proof stability and job security long into the future. It is impossible to create more water than what already exists on Earth, and as human populations and water-consuming industries continue to grow, we will always need water/wastewater professionals. Opportunities abound for a variety of career paths such as operators, electricians, mechanics, laboratory technicians, engineers, chemists, computer programmers, communications and public education staff, and other business functions like management, customer service, and accounting. Encourage your students to thank the utility workers behind the pipes and consider future career options: <https://www.workforwater.org/>*



About WEAT/AWWA

We are Texas-based nonprofits composed of members from a variety of water/wastewater careers. We volunteer to bring expert knowledge to the public (you!) as well as regulators and policymakers.



The Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) is your expert on water quality in the state of Texas. We exist to preserve, protect, and enhance the state's water resources for Texans to enjoy. Clean water is an essential part of Texas and the high quality of life our residents enjoy every day. It is important to Texas' economy and growth. Having clean water depends on the committed individuals and vital infrastructure that protect and maintain our clean water supply now and into the future. WEAT comprises water environment professionals of varying backgrounds such as engineers, scientists, operations and collection system specialists, maintenance workers, professors/ researchers, and utility managers who work together for one goal: clean water.

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The American Water Works Association (AWWA) is an international, nonprofit organization focused on scientific and educational water activities. AWWA professionals seek to engage utilities, engineers, operators, and community members of all ages. Members strive to share knowledge with water customers and build lasting relationships in the community. Volunteering is a key focus of AWWA, as professionals value giving back to students in their cities. For over 135 years, AWWA has been publishing journals, hosting technical conferences, and providing guidance on water quality standards for the industry. Professionals look forward to continuing the legacy of sharing technical knowledge while making a positive impact for many more years to come.

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