

# MARYLAND CENTER for SCHOOL SAFETY

## PREPARE 2025 Showcase Guidelines

**This year's Conference Theme is: "School Safety at the Quarter Century"**

**The theme for your Showcase entry is: Community Heroes**

Get ready for our 2025 Art Showcase, themed "Community Heroes." This year, we invite you to celebrate the individuals who help create a safe and supportive school environment.

Through your artwork, highlight the vital role of teachers, school resource officers, and community members in fostering a sense of security. From portraits that capture their dedication to depictions of the physical and emotional aspects of safety, share your unique perspective on what makes our educational community strong.

Let your creativity shine and showcase the collaborative efforts that ensure our schools are places of care, connection, and protection.

**What to Do:** Create an 8.5" x 11" piece of art that represents **what** or **who** makes a safe space for you in school. Also, give your piece a name and write a brief, 25 words or less, description of your piece to be included with your submission.

All entries must be original pieces of work that do not contain any logos, copyrighted imagery, or information (such as clipart). Artwork must be created manually by hand, whether on physical paper or digitally. Photography (digital or analog) is not eligible. Failure to comply with these guidelines will result in your entry being disqualified.

Entries **must be the work of the student** submitting the entry. By submitting an entry, you are attesting that the piece submitted is the sole work of the student. All participants will receive a gift from MCSS as a thank you for their participation.

**How Do I Submit My Entry?** When you are ready to submit your entry, complete the [entry form](#) on our website, upload your submission and name/description of your piece. The [Parent/Guardian authorization](#) for submission is required for all entries.

Electronic submissions are encouraged; however, you can also mail your entry and forms to The Maryland Center for School Safety, Attn: Showcase Committee, 7125 Ambassador Road, Suite 130, Windsor Mill, MD 21244. All mailed entries must be

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received within seven (7) days of the due date to be displayed at the conference and entered into the Showcase. Please plan accordingly.

If providing a picture of your entry, please ensure that it is a high-resolution photograph to capture the essence of your art.

All entries will be displayed at the MCSS Annual School Safety Conference, PREPARE 2025, July 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and on the MCSS website following the conference.

**Are there any material requirements?** No, the student artists can create their art pieces from any materials they see fit to express themselves, from popsicle sticks, to macaroni, to oil paint. Digital art is also acceptable. The submitted artwork must be static, such as traditional paintings (on paper or digital) or manually created digital art, without the use of automated or AI technology. Note that photography entries will not be accepted.

**Is there a size limit for my entry?** Yes, entries cannot be larger than 8.5" x 11" in size; however, photographs can be 8" x 10" or resized to 8.5" x 11".

**How many entries can I make?** There is a limit of one entry per student. Only the first received entry will be considered if there are multiple entries.

**Who is eligible to enter?** All Maryland students in grades 3 through 12 who attend any Public, Non-Public, Private or Homeschool. There will be three categories. Elementary School (3rd, 4th and 5th grade), Middle School (6th, 7th and 8th grade) and High School (9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade).

**Is anyone excluded from entering?** No, as long as you meet the grade criteria and are a student at a Maryland school in any of the 24 jurisdictions (including Baltimore City), you are eligible to submit an entry.

**What's the Contest Period?** The contest will begin at 12:00 a.m. on December 24, 2024 and end at 11:59 p.m. on June 13, 2025.

**Who will be judging my submission?** The attendees of the Conference will be submitting anonymous votes for each grade group. Attendees are only allowed to vote once for each Showcase grade group.

All MCSS staff members and Student Advocates for School Safety members are excluded from voting for any art pieces submitted to the Showcase.

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## **What criteria will the judging be based upon?**

- Level of creativity.
- How well the theme is represented in the piece submitted.
- Level of skill for your grade group.

**When will I find out if I won?** All votes will be tallied, and the winners will be announced on the last day of the conference and notified by email following the conference.

**How many winners will there be?** There will be three winners in each Showcase grade group– first, second, and third place.

**How will my art be used?** All submissions will be showcased on the MCSS website and may be used in promotional materials and postings by MCSS. If this is the case, the artist will be properly identified with the piece.

## **What are the Prizes?**

- **First Place Winners**
  - Elementary School - Digital Drawing Tablet with Screen
  - Middle School - Digital Drawing Tablet with Screen
  - High School - Wireless Apple Airpods Max
- **Second Place Winners**
  - Elementary School - 3D Pen with Starter Filament Kit
  - Middle School - 3D Pen with Starter Filament Kit
  - High School - LED Light Pad for Tracing and Sketching
- **Third Place Winners**
  - Elementary School - Watercolor Pencil Set w/ Sketchbook Set
  - Middle School - Art Kit
  - High School - Art Kit

MCSS reserves the right to add or substitute prizes at its discretion.