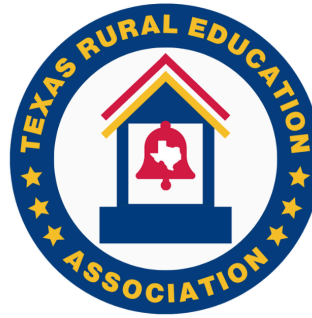


TEXAS RURAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TREA Announces 2026 Student Art Contest Winners, Celebrating “Where I Come From...Rural Texas”

AUSTIN, TX – April 28, 2026 – The Texas Rural Education Association (TREA) proudly announces the winners of its 2026 Student Art Contest, showcasing the creativity and talent of students from rural school districts across Texas.

This year’s contest featured **475 student entries** across three grade-level divisions, all centered around the theme “**Where I Come From...Rural Texas.**” Through their artwork, students captured the landscapes, traditions, and personal stories that define rural communities across the state.

Winning artwork will be featured during the TREA Annual Conference, held June 14–17, 2026, at the Kalahari Resort & Convention Center in Round Rock, where more than 700 attendees will experience these outstanding student works.

The competition recognized students in three grade-level divisions, awarding cash prizes to the top three artists in each category:

1st Place: \$500

2nd Place: \$300

3rd Place: \$150

TREA also extends sincere appreciation to **BLICK Art Materials** for generously providing gift certificates to both student winners and their art teachers.

“The theme this year gave students a powerful opportunity to tell their own stories,” said Bill Tarleton. “We were incredibly impressed by how these young artists captured the spirit of rural Texas. Their creativity and pride in their communities made this year’s contest truly special.”

2026 Student Art Contest Winners

Grades 3–5

1st Place

Colt Hill - Dawson ISD

2nd Place

Vivian Young - Paris ISD

3rd Place

Harper Fleming - Paris ISD

Grades 6–8

1st Place

Esteban Baeza - Presidio ISD

2nd Place

Katarina Harper - Palacios ISD

3rd Place

Preslee Paul - Aspermont ISD

Grades 9–12

1st Place

Nichole Garcia - Tarkington ISD

2nd Place

Valerie Guzman - Blue Ridge ISD

3rd Place

James Bell - Aspermont ISD