ART POSTER CONTEST

Don't miss out on this artistic opportunity!

We invite 6th - 12th grade students to display their artistic talents and enter the SEFH Art Poster Contest. The primary objective of this contest is to encourage students to develop creative visualizations that embodies STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

Each year, three place awards in each division (senior grades 9-12 or junior grades 6-8) and several honorable mention awards may be given. The award/gift cards will be presented at the SEFH Awards Ceremony. Posters that have been awarded will be displayed at Science and Engineering Fair.

Students are able to compete for the prizes below:

- 1st Place: $100.00 gift card and SEFH medallion
- 2nd Place: $75.00 gift card and SEFH medallion
- 3rd Place: $50.00 gift card and SEFH medallion (The awarding of this prize is dependent on the total number of entries.)
- Honorable Mention: $25.00 gift card SEFH medallion (The awarding of this prize is dependent on the total number of entries.)

Visit the SEFH website for the contest deadline. Teachers and students may use this link to visit the SEFH website to obtain further information: https://sefhouston.org/for-participants/#Poster-Contest

We look forward to viewing fantastic poster submissions!

Original Artwork Return Policy:
If an artist wishes to have their original artwork returned after the contest, they must make their own arrangements for pickup or delivery. SEFH is unable to cover shipping or handling costs for returning artwork. Please plan accordingly if you would like your piece returned.

Use Rights:
By submitting artwork to the Science and Engineering Fair of Houston (SEFH), artists agree to the following terms:
- **Display & Promotion:** SEFH may use selected artwork for display, marketing, and promotional purposes related to current and future SEFH events.
- **Permitted Uses:** Artwork may appear in SEFH press releases, presentations, articles, graphics, slideshows, event materials, and on the SEFH website.
- **Archiving:** SEFH may maintain an archive of selected artwork for historical documentation and public viewing.
- **Artist Credit:** SEFH will credit each image with the artist's name wherever it is used.
- **Copyright Ownership:** Artists retain full copyright of their submitted work.
- **License Agreement:** By entering, artists grant SEFH a non-exclusive, perpetual license to reproduce images of their artwork for advertising and promotional purposes

The major objective of the SEFH Poster Design Contest is to encourage students to think about science and engineering in an artistic way, and to create imaginative interpretations of the substance of science and engineering. Three place awards and several honorable mention awards are given each year. Posters that have placed 1st – 3rd will be displayed at the at the SEFH Awards Ceremony and at the University of Houston main campus STEM Center.
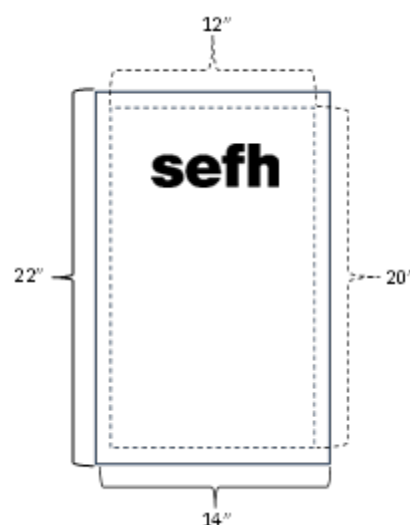
Eligibility
Students in grades 6 through 12 currently enrolled in public and non-public schools as full-time students, in the 23-county fair region, are eligible to enter. Each entering student may submit one self-made poster. There is no limit on the number of entries that can be submitted from a particular school.

Poster Specifications

- **Size & Format:** Posters must be 14" x 22" with a 1" margin on all sides. The artwork must fit within a 12" x 20" space and be vertically oriented, using the 14" side as the base. Do not mat, mount, or frame the poster.

- **Media:**
  - **Physical Artwork:** Acceptable media includes ink or paint on poster board. Pencil, charcoal, or other erasable media are not permitted. The design must be ready for reproduction and follow all size and color guidelines.
  - **Digital Artwork:** Artists may use digital drawing tools to create original artwork.
    - Digital submissions must follow the size and color limitations as physical entries.
    - Artwork must be created manually by the student without the use of AI-assisted features (e.g., auto-fill, generative expand, style transfer).

- **Color Limitations:** A maximum of three colors may be used. Shades of black and gray count as one color. White is not counted and may be used freely. Multiple shades of any other color will count as multiple colors.

- **Required Title:** All posters must include the title "**The 67th Science and Engineering Fair of Houston**"

- **Design Style:** While intricate designs are allowed, artists are encouraged to create bold, visually impactful compositions that reproduce well in both print and digital formats. Avoid excessive fine detail that may be lost during scanning, printing, or online display.

- **Theme:** The poster should symbolize the Fair as an aid to education and depict the collaborative nature of Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM).

- **Artificial Intelligence Policy:**
  To ensure originality and fairness, the following guidelines apply:
  - **Digital artwork is permitted**, but **students must draw or design the image themselves**. This may be done using digital tools such as but not limited to drawing tablets, software like Procreate, Photoshop, Illustrator, etc.
  - **AI-generated images or elements are strictly prohibited**. This includes:
    - Using generative AI tools (e.g., DALL·E, Midjourney, Firefly, etc.) to create or enhance any part of the artwork.
    - Copying or modifying AI-generated content.

- Preset shapes and brushes (e.g., circles, rectangles, texture brushes) may be used, but the composition, arrangement, and design must be entirely original and created by the student.
- Tracing or copying from AI-generated images, stock illustrations, or other published sources is not allowed.
- All entries must reflect the student's own creative effort and interpretation of STEM themes.

Judging Criteria

Posters will be judged for creativity, scientific and technical accuracy, and artistic skill. All entries submitted must be original. Copying is not acceptable. Computer-generated work created manually by the student using approved digital tools is permissible. AI-generated content is strictly prohibited. Work copied from published photographs, magazines, book illustrations, other artwork or in likeness of published artwork cannot be submitted.

Submitting Entries

Both hand drawn and digitally created artwork may be submitted using one of the following formats

- **Physical Submissions:**
    - A completed copy of the **Student Declaration of Originality and Submission Agreement** form must be taped to the backside of the poster. All posters from a school should be enclosed in a single wrapping paper package and marked with the name of the teacher and school. It must be brought to either the Fair Office or mailed to SEFH Art Poster Contest, c/o University of Houston, STEM Center, 3585 Cullen Blvd., Lamar Fleming Bldg., Room 138, Houston, TX 77204.
- **Digital Submissions:**
    - **Submitting hand drawn Created Artwork**
        - To ensure fair judging and high-quality presentation, please follow these instructions when submitting your physical poster digitally:
        - **Image Requirements**
            - **Orientation:** The image must be taken in portrait mode.
            - **Framing:** Ensure the poster is centered in the photo with equal spacing on all sides. This allows for consistent cropping and presentation.
            - **Background:** Use a neutral, uncluttered background to avoid distractions.
            - **Lighting:** Photograph the poster in natural or well-lit conditions to avoid shadows or glare.
        - **Editing Restrictions**
            - **No filters or enhancements:** Do not apply photo filters, color adjustments, or digital enhancements.
            - **No cropping or alterations:** Submit the raw image as captured, without modifying the content or layout.
        - **File Format & Quality**
            - **Accepted formats**: JPEG (.jpg), PNG (.png), or PDF (.pdf).
            - **Resolution:** Minimum of 150 DPI (dots per inch) recommended for clarity.
            - **File size:** Maximum 10 MB per submission.
            - **Naming convention:** Use the format **YourLastName_YourFirstName_GradeLevel_SchoolName_TeacherLastName** for the file name.
        - **Submission Process**
            - Complete the online submission form: https://universityofhouston.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2r8YpYxbvulUyNg
            - Upload your image via the official SEFH Poster Contest submission form

- o **Submitting Digitally Created Artwork**
  - ▪ If your poster was created entirely using digital tools (e.g., Procreate, Photoshop, Illustrator), you may submit the original digital file directly. The photography guidelines (e.g., framing, lighting, background) apply only to physical posters that are being photographed for digital submission.
  - ▪ Please ensure your digitally created artwork file:
    - ➢ Meets the required dimensions and color limitations
    - ➢ Is submitted in an accepted format (JPEG, PNG, or PDF)
    - ➢ Is named according to the specified naming convention
    - ➢ Has a minimum resolution of 150 DPI for clarity
    - ➢ Complete the online submission form: https://universityofhouston.iad1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2r8YpYxbvulUyNg

- There are no entry fees for the Art Poster Contest.
- All entries both digital and physical must be received by the deadline date, visit sefhouston.org for more information.

SEFH Art Poster Contest

Student Declaration of Originality and Submission Agreement

By signing below, I affirm that the artwork I am submitting for the SEFH Art Poster Contest is my own original creation. I understand and agree to the following:

- I have not copied from any published photograph, magazine, book illustration, stock image, or other artwork.
- I have not used any AI-generated images or elements in my poster.
- If my poster is digital, I have drawn or designed the image myself using approved digital tools.
- I may use preset shapes and brushes, but the arrangement and composition are entirely my own.
- I have not traced or copied from AI-generated content or other external sources.
- My submission reflects my personal creative effort and interpretation of STEM themes.
- I understand that failure to comply with these rules may result in disqualification from the contest.

I also understand that the Science & Engineering Fair of Houston, Inc. is not responsible for loss, theft, or damage of my artwork. I grant SEFH permission to use my art for public display. If my poster is chosen for the First Place Award, I give SEFH permission to make modifications to improve reproduction and to use the poster, at no cost to SEFH, as cover art for publications and promotional materials related to the Fair.

I hereby verify that, to the best of my knowledge, this is an original artwork created solely by me.

Student's Name: _____   Student's Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name:_____   Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Teacher's Name: _____   Teacher's Signature: _____

Date: _____