



3025 New Holland Rd., Reading PA, 19607



2023 entries by artists (left to right): Ava Kurowski, Grade 4; Hadassa Perez, Grade 5; Josh Griffith, Grade 9

## 2024 "Nature of Nolde Forest" Student Art Contest

For Berks County, PA Students in Grades 1-12

Updated 3/12/24

### GUIDE FOR INDEPENDENT ENTRIES

For more information visit:

- **Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center**, 3025 New Holland Rd., Reading, PA 19607
- **Art Plus Gallery**, 604 Penn Ave., W. Reading, or
- [www.artplusgalleryPA.com](http://www.artplusgalleryPA.com)

To schedule or get more information about group visits or activities, contact:

- Sarah Presogna, Environmental Education Specialist Supervisor at [spresogna@pa.gov](mailto:spresogna@pa.gov), [610-796-3692](tel:610-796-3692)

Direct questions about the contest to:

- [NoldeArtContest@artplusgallerypa.com](mailto:NoldeArtContest@artplusgallerypa.com), or
- Russell Slocum, Art Plus Gallery's contest coordinator, at 610-796-0418



Photo by Blair Seitz

## INTRODUCTION

Whether or not their school is officially participating in the 2024 “Nature of Nolde Forest” art contest, all Berks County students in grades 1-12 are invited to capture the nature of Nolde Forest in art, and participate in the contest on their own. Visit our forest and look at the natural beauty and resources through an artistic eye. Paint, pencil, marker, crayon, photography, clay—all media will be welcomed.

The creative period for Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center’s traditional county-wide student art contest will extend into spring of 2024.

In other words, whether or not their schools have officially registered for the competition, students may submit jgs for a preliminary judging in the “Independent entries” category. At least ten finalists will be selected from every 100 independent entries received in each of six categories:

### GRADE CATEGORIES FOR ART MEDIA:

- Grades 1 & 2
- Grades 3 & 4
- Grades 5 & 6
- Grades 7 & 8
- Grades 9 & 10
- Grades 11 & 12

Homeschooling parents should note that The Nature of Nolde Art Contest is designed to meet Academic Standards for the Arts and Humanities as defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. You’ll find more information about this later in this guide.

In May, the artwork of the finalists will be displayed in a professional art exhibit at Nolde Mansion. On May 5, students and their families and friends will be invited to the awards ceremony at McConnell Hall, located near the mansion.

## SCHEDULE & TIPS

**March 15 to April 1:** Send a jpg of your artwork and information about you and your art to Art Plus Gallery. Submission Guidelines are detailed on page 6.

**April 12:** Independent entrants will be notified as to whether or not they have been selected as finalists.

**April 23-27:** Art contest intake at Art Plus Gallery, 604 Penn Ave., West Reading: Teachers and independent entries drop off from Tuesday through Saturday, noon-5:00pm.

**5/3 (Friday):** Open House at Nolde Forest Mansion, 3-7pm

**5/4 (Saturday):** Open House at Nolde Forest Mansion, 10am-2pm

**5/5 (Sunday):** Exhibit reopens at 1:00pm. Awards & judge's presentation at McConnell Hall starts at 3:00pm.

All artwork should be taken after the awards presentation.

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES / STEEL

The Nature of Nolde Art Contest is designed to help teachers meet multiple Academic Standards for the Arts and Humanities as defined by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. These include (but are not limited to):

- 9.1.(3,5,8,12).A
- 9.1.(3,5,8,12).B
- 9.1.(3,5,8,12).I
- 9.2.(3,5,8,12).G

Follow this with criteria appropriate to your grade level, e.g.:

### 9.4.3. Grade 3:

Recognize that choices made by artists regarding subject matter and themes communicate ideas through works in the arts and humanities.

### 9.4.5. Grade 5:

Explain choices made regarding media, technique, form, subject matter and themes that communicate the artist's philosophy within a work in the arts and humanities.

### 9.4.8. Grade 8:

Describe to what purpose philosophical ideas generated by artists can be conveyed through works in the arts and humanities.

### 9.4.12. Grade 12:

Analyze and interpret a philosophical position identified in works in the arts and humanities.

The latest version of the standards can be found at: <https://www.pdesas.org/>

### **Artist Statements**

It is common for artists to provide an "Artist Statement" explaining why and how they created a specific piece of art, or even their entire body of work. By adding this written component to the art assignment, the exercise may also meet the criteria of 9.4.(3,5,8,12).D.

Artist Statements should be titled "Artist Statement," and include the following:

- Student's name
- Name of artwork
- Medium
- Statement: 20-100 words on why this subject was chosen, how the art was created, and/or other information that might help others appreciate the artwork even more.

## STEEL Standards

(Science, Technology & Engineering, Environmental Literacy & Sustainability)

This project can also provide a foothold in the STEEL Standards 3.4: Environmental Literacy and Sustainability, due for implementation in July, 2025.

## CONTEST RULES

The contest is open to all Berks County, PA students in grades 1-12. This includes public, private and parochial schools, as well as homeschoolers.

All art media are acceptable, including but not limited to paints, pencil, markers, crayons, collages, clay and photography.

The subject must be some aspect of Nolde Forest. One of the judges' criteria will be how well the artwork captures a setting, animal or specific feature of our environmental education center.

Students whose schools are not registered in the competition through their school, or who wish to enter a piece of artwork independently even though their school is participating, may submit jpgs for a preliminary judging in the "Independent Entries" category. Only one entry per student will be accepted.

Students may create a "plein air" work of art while at Nolde Forest, but this is not required. Students also may work from photos, sketches or memory, and do their art at home.

Artwork submitted in the contest may be photographed for Art Plus Gallery's online exhibit of the winning pieces, and for possible use in event publicity and media coverage.

## JUDGING

Within each Grade Category, a panel of artists from Art Plus Gallery will judge each piece based on the following elements:

- Clarity or creative interpretation in capturing the nature of a setting, animal or feature specific to Nolde Forest
- Composition, artistic style & execution
- Presentation of the artwork and impact upon the viewer, which may also consider an Artist Statement accompanying the artwork

The judges may select up to three award winners in each of the six grade categories described on page 2. The staff of Nolde Forest will also pick the winners of two Staff Choice Awards.

## SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- a. Whether or not their school has registered in the contest, students may submit a jpg for consideration in the Independent Entries category.
- b. Between 3/15 and 4/1, email a jpg of your artwork to:  
[NoldeArtContest@artplusgallerypa.com](mailto:NoldeArtContest@artplusgallerypa.com)

The subject line must say simply “Nolde Entry Grade \_\_\_”. (Fill in the student’s grade level.) The cover message must include:

- Student’s name
  - Grade level
  - Title and/or location of artwork
  - Town or borough of residence
  - School attended (or note “Homeschool”)
  - Contact info (student or parent/guardian email and/or phone #) for notification if you are selected as a finalist.
- c. From each 100 independent entries received, at least ten finalists will be selected by a panel of judges from Art Plus Gallery. Finalists will be notified by 4/12/24, and submission guidelines emailed to those selected.

## AWARDS

### GRADE CATEGORIES

Grades 1 & 2  
Grades 3 & 4  
Grades 5 & 6  
Grades 7 & 8  
Grades 9 & 10  
Grades 11 & 12

Three prizes will be awarded in each category:

First Prize: \$50  
Second Prize: \$30  
Third Prize: \$20

In addition, there will be two Staff Choice Awards of \$20 each.

# PLANNING YOUR VISIT TO NOLDE FOREST

Address for GPS: 3025 New Holland Rd., Reading, PA 19607

There are no fees involved in participating, but transportation to and from Nolde Forest will be the responsibility of the school and/or parents.

**ORGANIZED SCHOOL GROUPS:** If you're planning to have a large group of students visit by bus, van, or caravan, you must contact Sarah Presogna at [spresogna@pa.gov](mailto:spresogna@pa.gov), [610-796-3692](tel:610-796-3692) to reserve parking. The only spaces available for bus parking are located in the Mansion parking area, and the number of these is limited. As our Environmental Education Specialist Supervisor, Sarah can also recommend grade-appropriate points of interest suitable for larger groups.

**INDEPENDENT VISITS:** If a bus trip cannot be arranged, consider encouraging students' families to visit Nolde Forest on their own or perhaps as smaller groups.

## NOLDE FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER HOURS

Regular office hours are Monday through Friday from 8AM to 4PM (excludes State Holidays). Parking is available at the EE Center Mondays through Fridays from 8AM to 4PM. Additional parking is located at the Historic Sawmill and North Pond. These parking areas, along with Nolde Forest trails are open from sunrise to sunset each day of the year.

## GROUP VISITS

Individuals can visit at any time from dawn to dusk.

## PARKING

**Mansion Parking Lot** for cars and buses: **M-F, 8AM-4PM**

**Additional Parking:** Nolde's four other parking areas are open every day, sunrise to sunset:

- Sawmill parking lot off Rte. 625
- Church Road at North Pond
- Oregon Road at Fire Gate #3
- Oregon Road at Fire Gate #5 (2 spaces)

## POINTS OF INTEREST

Part of the fun is discovering interesting scenes and natural beauty for yourself, but here are some favorite spots.

1. Sawmill Parking & Picnic Area – Old Sawmill building, dam, stream, assorted evergreen tree varieties
2. Watershed Trail: Pristine stream, stone & wooden bridges, springs, spring houses
3. Boulevard Trail: Varied terrain and tree species; clearings; 20-mile view from high point in park
4. The Rock Outcrop: Large rocks, scenic overlook
5. Ridge Trail: Overlooks and mossy areas
6. Environmental Center Lane: Stone barn and old stone spring house; field habitats, nest boxes
7. Nolde Forest Mansion: Garden with old tiles and fountain; historic stone Tudor building with turret
8. Middle Road: Original row plantings of white pine
9. Fire Gate #5: field habitat, nest boxes, picnic area
10. Turtle Pond and North Pond: Ponds with Painted Turtles, Northern Water Snakes, dragonflies, butterflies, red spotted newts, aquatic life
11. Bird feeding station behind McConnell Environmental Education Hall

## MAP

You'll find a downloadable map and more information at <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/noldeforest/>

## PROTECTING & PRESERVING NOLDE FOREST

Please make your visit safe and enjoyable. Obey all posted rules and regulations and respect fellow visitors and the resources of the park.

- Be prepared and bring the proper equipment. Natural areas may possess hazards. Your personal safety and that of your family are your responsibility.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Because uncontrolled pets may chase wildlife or frighten visitors, pets must be controlled, attended at all times, and on a leash, caged or crated. Electronic fences and leashes are prohibited.
- Do your part to keep wildlife wild! Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance and do not feed or approach wild animals.
- Enjoy plants and animals in their natural setting. Picking, digging, and collecting plants and animals are prohibited. All wildlife should be left undisturbed.
- Please recycle. Place trash accumulated during your stay in proper receptacles or take it home with you.
- Please stay on trails to protect the life that borders the paths.
- All fires are prohibited.
- Bicycles, motor vehicles, and horses are only permitted on the paved entrance road to the center and parking lots.



## ABOUT THE SPONSORS



### Friends of Nolde Forest

[www.FriendsOfNoldeForest.org](http://www.FriendsOfNoldeForest.org)

Most of the prize money for the art contest is provided by The Friends of Nolde Forest, a non-profit group of volunteers dedicated to supporting the environmental center's educational programming, and to protecting and enhancing the forest's diverse habitats. Their contributions are many and varied, including helping to build bridges, install benches and birdhouses, directing and working with volunteers for trail maintenance, and raising funds to meet the needs of the Center. On the first Sunday of each month from September through May, The Friends of Nolde Forest host an open house at the Nolde Mansion that now serves as the center's administrative headquarters, inviting the public to tour the magnificent Tudor estate and learn more about the fascinating history of the Nolde family and forest.



### Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center

3025 New Holland Rd. (Rt. 625)

Reading, PA 19607

610.796.3699

<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/noldeforest/>

It is only 3.5 square miles, yet Nolde Forest's diverse terrain, habitats and natural resources, along with nearly 10 miles of trails, offer endless opportunities for recreation, education and relaxation.

A century ago, the rolling hills here had been nearly stripped of trees to fuel the foundry that operated off New Holland Road through much of the 1800s. When hosiery baron Jacob Nolde acquired this property in the early 1900s, a single white pine grew amid meadow vegetation. Inspired by this tree, the German-born Nolde hired an Austrian forester to create a coniferous forest. It was not long until the plantings began to form a "luxury forest," a source of family pleasure and pride. In 1926, Hans Nolde, a son of Jacob, initiated work on the Tudor-style mansion that became his family's year-round home.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania purchased the property in the late 1960s, and in 1970 it became Pennsylvania's first environmental education center operated by the Bureau of State Parks.



**Art Plus Gallery**

604 Penn Ave.

West Reading, PA 19611

610.375-9122

[www.artplusgallerypa.com](http://www.artplusgallerypa.com)

Founded in 1999, Art Plus Gallery is a non-profit cooperative of 25 local artists working in a wide range of media including oils, watercolors, pen & ink, jewelry, sculpture and fibrearts.

Art Plus is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. They earn this status by their dedication to promoting art appreciation and participation throughout the Berks community in general, and among K-12 students in particular. In addition to co-sponsoring the "Nature of Nolde" Student Art Contest...

- Each year a \$1000 Art Plus Gallery Scholarship is awarded to a Berks high school senior going on to pursue an art major in college.
- Featured Exhibit space is shared with several schools, community organizations and/or guest artists each year.
- Internships are offered to college and high school students, and dues-free fellowships are offered to artists in financial need.
- Art Plus members engage parents and kids alike in art-related activities in West Reading's popular "Art on the Avenue" and "Fall Fest."
- Art Plus coordinates Plein Air West Reading, the keystone event in the Art on the Avenue street festival held each June.
- Art Plus artists speak at community clubs, hold workshops and demos, and help support charitable events in keeping with the gallery's mission to "promote art appreciation and participation throughout Berks County in general, and among students in particular."