



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

TEACHER GUIDE

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

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

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

Direct questions about the contest to:

- NoldeArtContest@artplusgallerypa.com, or
- Russell Slocum, Art Plus Gallery's contest coordinator, at 610-796-0418

INTRODUCTION

The students of schools throughout Berks County, grades 1-12, are invited to “capture the nature of Nolde Forest in art.” Bring or encourage your students to 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 April of 2024.

The contest is open to all Berks County public, private and parochial schools, privately homeschooled students and homeschool cooperatives with at least some of the students residing in Berks County.

You may register your school at any time until April 1, 2024. By doing so, you will be assured of having finalists in the May, 2024 exhibit at Nolde Forest Mansion (specific dates to be announced in Spring). The exhibit will also be showcased through the rest of year on the website of Art Plus Gallery: www.artplusgallerypa.com. Multiple teachers from the same school may register their art classes.

REGISTER YOUR SCHOOL

The contest is designed to meet an array of **Academic Standards for the Arts and Humanities**. These are summarized on the next page. By registering you will be able to submit TWO finalists in each Grade Category taught in your school:

GRADE CATEGORIES FOR ART MEDIA:

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

For example, if you teach Grades 1-5, you may submit two finalists in each of these grade categories:

- Grades 1 & 2
- Grades 3 & 4
- Grades 5 & 6

AWARDS: Three prizes will be awarded in each grade category:

First Prize: \$50

Second Prize: \$30

Third Prize: \$20

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

Multiple teachers from the same school may register providing their students are different.

To register, email noldeartcontest@artplusgallerypa.com, and include:

- School name and address
- Teacher name
- Grades participating

You'll receive a confirming email within two weeks. You'll receive submission guidelines in early April. Please keep in mind that there should be no more than one piece from any one student among the art media.

If you don't register your school, you can still encourage your students to enter the contest through the Independent Entries category.

EVENT SCHEDULE FOR TEACHERS

April 1, 2024: Deadline for registration.

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.

5/1 (Wednesday): Winners announced

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.

Schools may register in advance and start with an in-school evaluation to determine their own finalists for the public exhibit at Nolde Forest Mansion. Multiple teachers from the same school may register and select their own finalists. For example, if there are two art teachers and a teacher of a gifted student program, they each may register and select two finalists in each grade category.

Teachers from registered schools may submit two finalists for each grade category in that school.

Students whose schools are not registered in the competition, or who wish to enter a piece of artwork independently, may submit jpgs for a preliminary judging in the “Independent Entries” category.

Students may create a “plein air” work of art while at Nolde Forest, but this is not required. Students may work from photos, sketches or memory, and do their art at home or in the classroom. If students can’t get to Nolde Forest in the time provided, perhaps they can work from original photographs taken by teachers, TAs, parents or other students.

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.

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, [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

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

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."