



2023 Student Creativity Showcase

"Creativity Takes Flight"

Program Overview:

Objective:

- To provide students across the DFW Metroplex the opportunity to share how they express their creativity through Visual Arts, Performing Arts, and/or STEM disciplines.

Open to:

- All students 2nd - 12th grade

Format:

- Open Submissions: Students are invited to upload original works: images, videos, and electronic pieces alongside their written or video narrative. This initial round will be reviewed and finalists will be selected in each category.
- Finalist Judging: Finalists will be asked to drop off physical entries at SPARK! for juried voting – both by a judging panel and the online community. Finalists will receive information to encourage friends and family to vote.
- All finalists' entries will be on display at SPARK! during the Student Creativity Showcase Awards Event on Saturday, May 7. Teachers, classmates and families of the winners are invited to see the creative works and hear the announcement of winners for each category.
- Winners will be announced at the event on May 6.
- As of now, the works of finalists in the visual arts and STEM categories will be on display at Love Field after the showcase awards event.
- Finalists in the performing arts category will be invited to perform at the Awards event, May 7.

Schedule:

- Open Submissions – November 28 through midnight, Sunday, April 2
 - SPARK! Website Page: www.sparkdallas.org/showcase
 - Entry Form <https://form.jotform.com/222836214787160>
- Mentoring program open to all applicants in Visual Arts, Performing Arts and STEM beginning January.
- Judging Open Submissions – Week of April 3
- All students notified of finalist selection by Wednesday, April 13
- Finalists submit physical pieces by 9:00 AM, Monday, April 25
 - Must schedule a drop off of a project with SPARK! Staff between Wednesday, April 13 – Monday, April 25
- Judging Round 2 – Week of April 25
- Student Creativity Showcase Awards Event – Saturday, May 6, 2022 @ SPARK!
- Students will pick up their submissions TBD



Eligibility & Categories:

Eligibility:

All Students Second Grade through High School

- 2nd – 5th Grade
 - This bracket ONLY must create submissions using the “Take Flight” theme. Students must use their imagination to incorporate the theme into their submission.
- 6th – 8th Grade
- 9th – 12th Grade

Categories:

- Visual Arts – including, but not limited to:
 - 2D & 3D Art
 - Film
 - Photography
 - Architecture
 - Woodworking
 - Fashion Design
- Performing Arts – original works only– including, but not limited to:
 - Dance
 - Music, instrumental and/or vocal
 - Theater, comedy, Improv, Monologues, Set Design, Costuming
 - Spoken Word, prose
- STEM – including, but not limited to:
 - Coding
 - Software development
 - Engineering
 - Robotics
 - 3D Design



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Contest Details:

In addition to the creative submission, students will be required to submit responses regarding their engagement in and with the creative process in creating their original work. SPARK! defines the creative process as: **INSPIRATION** with **ITERATION** and **COLLABORATION** leads to **INNOVATION**. In either an essay of no more than 150 words, or a video of no more than 3 minutes, students are asked to explain how they were inspired to create this piece; share the iterative and/or collaborative process they used to create the final, submitted work. The 2nd-5th graders are encouraged to explain their pursuit of this year's theme: "Take Flight." Submissions may be done by individuals or groups (within the same grade levels) and must be received by April 2.

Showcase is open to all students and organizations: schools, scouts, nonprofits, any group that serves this age group. All submissions must be of a "Family Friendly" nature both in content and execution. If judges deem any entry unsuitable for all age groups it will not be considered for the competition.

Submission: The open submission, or first round of the competition will take place digitally. Students will be asked to submit photos, videos, or electronic files that represent their unique expression of creativity and allow judges to see their ingenuity. While this is an excellent opportunity for classrooms or groups, mass submissions of like items will not be accepted. In other words, teachers are encouraged to engage children by having them determine what their submission may be, not instructing the class on what to submit. Each submission must be uploaded individually. File size for upload will be restricted to 1MB.

In the initial round of judging, the highest ranking submissions will be identified as "Finalists" and will move on to a second round of judging. Finalists will be asked to deliver their winning projects to SPARK! between Wednesday, April 13 – Monday, April 25. Submissions and all intellectual property rights remain the property of the submitter. However, the submitter/parent will sign a release allowing SPARK! to post images and likeness of the creation on the SPARK! website, and social media, and use in future promotional materials. All Finalist work will be on display at the 2023 Student Creativity Showcase Awards Event on Saturday, May 7. No submission may have a footprint larger than 4' x 4' or be taller than 8'. Culinary or any "perishable" submission will be sent via a printed recipe or description and a visual of the item.

Questions: Please direct all questions to SPARK! at programs@sparkdallas.org or by phone at 214-421-7727.



Evaluation Methodology:

Round 1: Submissions will be split into 4 categories: Visual Arts, Performing Arts, STEM and collaborative projects (created by 2 or more students). The top 5 submissions (finalists) from each category and each age group (60 entries) will be selected by a judging panel made up of SPARK! Staff, Board of Directors, and representatives from businesses and other area nonprofit organizations that promote creativity. Decision of judges is final, no contesting will be entertained.

	Visual Arts	Performing Arts	STEM Projects	Collaborative Entries
Grades 2 – 5	5 finalists	5 finalists	5 finalists	5 finalists
Grades 6 – 8	5 Finalists	5 finalists	5 finalists	5 finalists
Grades 9 – 12	5 finalists	5 finalists	5 finalists	5 finalists

Round 2: All finalists selected in Round 1 will be asked to bring their submissions to SPARK! between April 13 – April 25 for judging.

People’s Choice - All finalists will be posted on SPARK! Facebook for the public to vote on a People’s Choice Award. Details around encouraging online voting will be available once finalists have been named. A single People’s Choice award will be given to the entrant with the most votes on SPARK! Facebook.

Judges’ Choice - A panel of representatives from SPARK! and other creative experts in the Dallas community will choose the top submission for each category and age bracket (12 possible total awards). Decision of judges is final, no contesting will be entertained.

Best in Show - Judges will select one individual from each age group as “Best in Show” for the showcase. Decision of judges is final, no contesting will be entertained.



Prizes:

Finalists:

All finalists will receive a SPARK! T-Shirt and four admission passes to SPARK! that include participation in the pop-up. Passes are valid for any date the facility is open to the public and valid through calendar 2023. Prizes will be awarded at the awards show on May 7. No prizes will be mailed.

Judges' Choice:

Each Judges' Choice winner will receive an additional 8 admission passes to SPARK! that include participation in the pop-up. Passes are valid for any date the facility is open to the public and valid through calendar 2023. These passes will be awarded at the awards show on May 7. No winning passes will be mailed.

Best of Show:

- The Best of Show winner for grades 2-5 will receive one week of summer camp at SPARK!
- The Best of Show winner for grades 6-8 will receive a \$500 scholarship to be used to continue their creative development. Upon registration to an approved camp / instruction / or program, SPARK! will pay admission directly to the organization providing the programming. Cash will not be given directly to the students.
- The Best of Show winner for grades 9-12 will receive a \$1000 scholarship to be used to continue their creative development.
- Each Best of Show winner will be paired with a professional in their field of interest for a half-day mentoring session. This is a hands-on experience customized for each Best of Show winner and will be scheduled based on mutual availability for both the winner and the professional.

People's choice:

This winner gets the opportunity to lead a creative, pop-up activity at SPARK! for a weekend in 2023. The People's Choice winner will also receive 8 admission passes to SPARK! that include participation in the pop-up. Passes are valid for any date the facility is open to the public and valid through calendar 2023. These passes will be awarded at the awards show on May 6. No winning passes will be mailed.