COLORADO CRANE CONSERVATION COALITION, INC.
Dedicated to the conservation and protection of Sandhill Cranes in Colorado

2027 Crane-Inspired Creative Arts Scholarship Contest Rules

The Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition, Inc. (CCCC) invites all high school seniors in Routt and Moffat counties to submit an original piece of written, visual, or musical art inspired by the **Rocky Mountain Population of Greater Sandhill Cranes**.

1. Eligibility & General Guidelines

- **Who Can Enter:** High school seniors who permanently reside in AND attend a public/private high school or registered homeschool program within Routt or Moffat County.
- **Entry Limit:** One (1) submission per student.
- **Theme & Research:** Your work must express your unique voice while accurately reflecting the physical characteristics, behavior, biology, habitat, and natural history of the Rocky Mountain Population of Greater Sandhill Cranes in the Yampa Valley. Entrants are strongly encouraged to research background information at **www.coloradocranes.org**.
- **Originality & AI Policy:** Submissions must be entirely the original work of the entrant. **The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to create any portion of an entry is strictly prohibited.** Any entry found by CCCC, at its sole discretion, to involve AI will be disqualified, and any awarded scholarship will be forfeited.

2. Art Categories:

Entrants may submit art in **one** of the following three categories:

Category	Medium & Requirements
Category 1: Story or Essay	One creative nonfiction essay or fictional story (**750–1,500 words**).
Category 2: Poetry or Song	**Three (3) poems** OR **one (1) original song** (must include lyrics, sheet music, and an audio/video recording).
Category 3: Visual Arts	One original painting, sketch, photograph, digital art, or mixed-media piece. **Physical artwork must be framed and wired for wall-hanging.**

3. Scholarship Awards & Contingencies

- **First Place in each category:** $2,000 scholarship
- **Second Place in each category:** $1,000 scholarship
- **Two Honorable Mentions (in any category):** $500 scholarship each

Contingency: Scholarships are contingent upon the winner's acceptance and enrollment in an accredited continuing education institution. If a winner is not registered by **November 1, 2027**, the award will be forfeited and reassigned in sequence to the next qualifying runner-up. *(Note: CCCC reserves the right not to issue an award in a category if judges determine entries do not meet quality or qualification standards.)*

4. Evaluation Criteria

Entries are judged blindly by a panel selected by the CCCC Board of Directors based on:

1. **Scientific & Cultural Accuracy:** Demonstrates knowledge of the Rocky Mountain Population of Greater Sandhill Cranes in the Yampa Valley (biology, behavior, habitat, and/or natural history).
2. **Originality & Voice:** Expresses authentic creativity and a unique artistic perspective.
3. **Technical Quality:** Demonstrates quality, skill, and mastery appropriate to the chosen medium.

5. How to Submit (Deadline: Friday, February 12, 2027) **No late entries will be accepted.**

1. **Send an email** to info@coloradocranes.org by **February 12, 2027** containing:
    - Your completed and signed **2027 Contest Application Form** (attached as a PDF or clear photo).
    - **Digital Files of Your Work:**
        - *Category 1 & Cat. 2 (Poetry):* Attach as a Word document (.doc/.docx) or PDF.
        - *Category 2 (Songs):* Attach sheet music and lyrics (Word/PDF) **plus** an audio or video file of the performance.
        - *Category 3 (Visual Arts):* Attach a clear photograph of the finished piece.
    - Include the **Title** on the artwork/document itself, but **do NOT put your name or any identifying information on the work**.
2. **Deliver Physical Visual Art (Category 3 Only):** Framed and wired physical artwork must be delivered to the CCCC office (**129 W. Jefferson Ave., Hayden, CO**) by **Friday, February 19, 2027**.

6. Exhibition, Events & Pickup

- **Confirmation:** CCCC will email a confirmation upon receiving your entry, along with instructions for gallery drop-off/pickup and event logistics.
- **March Exhibition & First Friday:** All qualifying entries will be displayed at **The Depot Art Center** in Steamboat Springs throughout March. Participants are expected to attend the **First Friday Art Walk on March 5, 2027**, to give a brief (1-minute) presentation about their piece. Families are welcome to attend.
- **Winner Announcements:** Judging takes place in March, with winners announced in the spring via CCCC's website, local media, and high school award programs. Winners will receive a certificate and instruction letter at their school's scholarship awards ceremony and must email CCCC with the required information to have funds sent to their school.
- **Artwork Pickup:** Entrants will be notified when to retrieve physical pieces from the CCCC office. **Any artwork not picked up by May 31, 2027, becomes the property of CCCC.**
- **Media Rights:** CCCC retains the right to reproduce and display all submissions, with appropriate artist credit, for educational and publicity purposes.

Please reach out with questions, **we are here to help.** Contact CCCC at info@coloradocranes.org or **(970) 620-5385**. **CCCC encourages Routt and Moffat County seniors to participate, learn, create, and enjoy!**

Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition, Inc. (CCCC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that conserves and protects the Rocky Mountain Population of Greater Sandhill Cranes and their habitat using science and education to connect people with this iconic species. CCCC raises awareness of cranes through the annual Yampa Valley Crane Festival, the Crane Nest Camera, Crane Photo Contest, third grade and community crane educational presentations, the First Crane Sighting Contest, the Crane Coloring Contest and the Crane-inspired Creative Arts Scholarship Contest. CCCC also supports habitat improvement through "Crops for Cranes", where CCCC works with ranchers and others to support grain crops for Sandhill Cranes during the fall just prior to migration.

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2027 CCCC Creative Arts Scholarship Contest — Entry Application

Submission Deadline: Friday, February 12, 2027

Submit via Email: info@coloradocranes.org | **Physical Art Drop-Off:** 129 W. Jefferson Ave., Hayden, CO or by special arrangement.

Section 1: Entrant Information - *Please print clearly or type.*

- **Full Name:**_____
- **Mailing Address (Street or PO Box):**_____
- **City:** _____ **State:** CO **ZIP Code:**_____
- **Phone Number:** _____**Email Address:** _____
- **Name of High School or Registered Homeschool Program:**_____
- **County of Residence & School:** [ ] Routt County [ ] Moffat County
  (Must reside & attend school in either county)

Section 2: Submission Details

- **Category (Check One):**
  [ ] **Category 1:** Story or Essay *(750–1,500 words)*
  [ ] **Category 2:** Poetry *(3 poems)* **OR** Song *(lyrics, sheet music & recording)*
  [ ] **Category 3:** Visual Arts *(Must be framed and wired for hanging)*
- **Subcategory / Medium** *(e.g., Fiction, Acrylic Painting, Photography, Song)*:
  _____
- **Title of Work** *(Must match the title on your piece; do NOT put your name on the artwork itself)*: _____
- **Artist's Statement for Gallery Display (1–3 sentences):**

Section 3: Certification of Originality & No-AI Pledge

I certify that I meet all eligibility requirements for the 2027 CCCC Creative Arts Scholarship Contest. I affirm that the submitted work is entirely my own original creation and that **Artificial Intelligence (AI) was not used, in whole or in part, to write, compose, generate, or create this entry**. I understand that any violation of this rule will result in immediate disqualification and forfeiture of any scholarship award.

- **Entrant Signature:** _____
- **Date:** _____

Section 4: Media Release & Exhibition Agreement

I grant the Colorado Crane Conservation Coalition, Inc. (CCCC) permission to exhibit my submitted work (including at The Depot Art Center in March 2027) and to photograph, reproduce, publish, and use my submission, name, school, and likeness—with appropriate artist credit—for educational, promotional, and publicity purposes in print and digital media. I acknowledge that physical artwork not picked up from the CCCC office by **May 31, 2027**, will become the property of CCCC.

- **Entrant Signature:** _____
- **Date:** _____
- **Parent/Guardian Signature** *(Required if entrant is under 18)*:
  _____
- **Date:** _____
- **Parent/Guardian Printed Name & Phone:**
  _____