

Science Without Borders Challenge 2026

Category: [Illustration](#)

Deadline: March 2, 2026

Website: graphiccompetitions.com



The Science Without Borders Challenge 2026 is an international student art contest organized by the Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation. The competition encourages young artists and scientists to use their creativity to promote ocean conservation and raise awareness about critical marine issues. Each year, the contest features a new theme related to ocean science, and the 2026 theme—"Microscopic Marine Life"—invites students to explore the fascinating world of tiny organisms that play an essential role in maintaining the health of marine ecosystems. Participants are asked to create original, two-dimensional artwork that communicates the beauty, importance, and vulnerability of microscopic marine life in the ocean environment.

This global art challenge provides a unique opportunity for students to connect science and art while learning about the delicate balance of marine ecosystems. By researching marine biology and oceanography topics, participants gain insight into how microscopic species such as plankton, algae, and bacteria contribute to nutrient cycles, oxygen production, and biodiversity. Through visual storytelling, students not only express their artistic talent but also help inspire others to understand and protect the ocean's smallest and most vital inhabitants. The challenge fosters both environmental stewardship and cross-disciplinary learning, making it a meaningful educational experience for young people around the world.

The Science Without Borders Challenge 2026 aims to build a global community of young ocean advocates who use art to promote sustainability and scientific literacy. The competition reaches students from dozens of countries, uniting them under the shared mission of ocean conservation. By merging creativity with science education, the contest aligns with broader goals of promoting STEM learning, environmental awareness, and global citizenship. The artworks submitted to the challenge serve as powerful tools for public outreach, helping audiences visualize complex scientific concepts and inspiring future generations to take action to preserve the planet's oceans.

There is no entry fee.

Eligibility

Students worldwide aged 11-19 who are enrolled in primary or secondary school or the home-school equivalent

(college/university students are not eligible).

Prize

Winners will receive scholarships as follows: 1st place US \$500, 2nd place US \$350, 3rd place US \$200, and a "People's Choice" award in each age group carrying a US \$50 scholarship.
