

35th Annual Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest



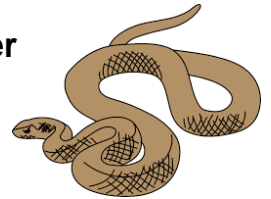
Open to Georgia students in K-5th grade



State Botanical Garden of Georgia
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



The [Georgia Department of Natural Resources \(DNR\)](#), [State Botanical Garden of Georgia](#) and [The Environmental Resources Network, Inc. \(TERN\)](#) encourage you and your students to participate in the **35th annual Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest!** As part of DNR and TERN's "Kids for Conservation" initiative, this contest provides a unique opportunity for kindergarten through fifth-grade students to explore the wonders of Georgia's native animals and plants through the 2024-25 theme: **Colors of the Wild: Blend in or Stand Out?**



Wild animals and plants come in a variety of colors and patterns. In addition to being beautiful, their appearance can help them survive. Wildlife that blend in with their environment are **camouflaged**. They have similar colors or patterns to their habitat (plants, rocks, sand, etc.). Camouflage helps **prey** animals (those that could be eaten) to hide from **predators** (animals that attack and eat other animals). Predators may use camouflage too, to help them sneak up on prey.

Not all animals are camouflaged though. Some stand out with bright colors, either to attract a mate or to warn predators to stay away. Red, orange, yellow, and black (or a combination of these colors) gives a hint that they could taste bad or be dangerous (biting, stinging, stinky or poisonous). However, some non-threatening animals copy or **mimic** those with warning colors, so they can be protected too. Species that use **mimicry** include hoverflies (look like bees), viceroy butterfly (mimic the distasteful monarch), scarlet kingsnake (similar to the venomous coral snake) and alligator snapping turtle (worm-like tongue helps them catch fish).

By participating in the Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest, you can help students gain a better appreciation of wildlife and the habitats they need to survive, as well as how our actions can help or harm them. See the Teacher Tips on the next page to help you get started!

We look forward to working with you and your students! If you have any questions, please visit georgiawildlife.com/PosterContest or contact one of the state contest coordinators:



Linda May – (706) 319-0211, linda.may@dnr.ga.gov

Audrey S. Mitchell – (706) 583-0894, astadler@uga.edu



Teacher Tips

Contest Rules: Start with a Local Contest at Your School



While following the **Poster Contest Rules and Guidelines**, instruct your students to design their own artwork based on this year's contest theme:

Colors of the Wild: Blend in or Stand Out?

Artwork should depict at least one identifiable animal or plant species native to Georgia. Include a description on the **Poster Contest Entry Form**, thereby demonstrating that the student understands their subject. Then arrange for a local competition of students' artwork at your school or within your group (i.e., homeschool group, after-school camp, scout troop, library branch, etc.). School or group judges will select first-, second- and third-place winners (award ribbons and Give Wildlife a Chance certificates are available for free — refer to **Contest Awards** section for details). Participating schools or groups will then choose one first-place winner from each division and email photographs of the winning entries with accompanying entry forms to the State Botanical Garden of Georgia.

The deadline to compete in the state-level contest is **March 7, 2025**. State entries will represent one or more of the four division categories described in the **Poster Contest Rules and Guidelines** section. First-, second- and third-place winners will be chosen as state-level winners from each division level, and the winning artwork will be announced and showcased on Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division and State Botanical Garden media in May 2025.

Supporting Activities

Bird Plumage Study

Use a bird field guide or online search to learn which bird species live nearby. Which ones blend in with their habitat, and which ones stand out? Include species with brightly colored males and duller females (ie., American goldfinch, Eastern bluebird, Northern cardinal, red-winged blackbird, wood duck).

- Why are the males brighter? (to better attract a mate; for some, color dulls in the winter)
- Why are the females duller? (to better hide from predators while sitting on a nest)



PBS Kids "My Animal City"

Show students a small, realistic plastic or rubber toy of a snake, spider, mouse or other animal that lives around people. Ask them to draw or paint a city or town habitat in which the animal would be hard to see.

Project Learning Tree's "Birds and Worms"

Students will discover the value of camouflage as they pretend to be birds in search of colored worms. <https://www.plt.org/family-activity/birds-and-worms>



Startle Coloration Study (YouTube videos: <https://tinyurl.com/2aajsxnz> & <https://tinyurl.com/2i5mers8>)

Discover how the io moth and Cope's gray treefrog use "startle coloration" to keep them safe when a predator comes near. These animals are camouflaged, but the io moth reveals big scary "eyespot" on its hind wings. The Cope's gray treefrog has bright yellow hidden on the inside of its thighs. As it jumps away, the yellow flash startles and confuses a predator, so the treefrog can escape.

Poster Contest Rules & Guidelines

Sponsorship and Judging



The 35th annual **Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest** is sponsored by the [Georgia Department of Natural Resources \(DNR\)](#), [State Botanical Garden of Georgia](#) and [The Environmental Resources Network, Inc. \(TERN\)](#). The theme changes yearly, but the contest is an ongoing educational effort to help children and teachers gain awareness and appreciation of Georgia's native animals and plants. The 2024-25 theme is **Colors of the Wild: Blend in or Stand Out?** Artists and wildlife professionals will judge the contest entries based on artistic interpretation, originality, visual impact and theme adherence.

Eligibility

The contest is open to Georgia students in kindergarten through fifth grades. Homeschool groups, public schools and private schools are encouraged to participate. Artwork must be produced by individual students; group drawings are not permitted. AI and computer generated artwork are not allowed. Schools/groups may enter one poster from any or all divisions:

- Division 1: Kindergarten
- Division 2: First and Second Grades
- Division 3: Third and Fourth Grades
- Division 4: Fifth Grade



Each school/group may enter **no more than a total of four posters** to the state-level contest (one entry per division). State-level entries are normally the artwork of the first-place school or homeschool group winners.

Entry and Format Requirements



All state-level artwork entries must be submitted electronically.

Any size flat artwork is fine as long as it can be photographed well (photos may be taken with a smart phone or digital camera). Collages and 3D artwork are not eligible. By submitting artwork, you are granting (on behalf of yourself and the student) permission for sponsors to publish, reproduce and distribute the artwork.

For each state level entry, submit a full-frame photo of the artwork and a photo or PDF of the completed Entry Form (last page) via email to Audrey S. Mitchell at the State Botanical Garden of Georgia no later than **March 7, 2025**: astadler@uga.edu



Contest Awards

Certificates & Ribbons: Educators may request Give Wildlife a Chance certificates for all students who participate in their local school competition, as well as first-, second- and third-place ribbons to present to class, grade level or school group participants.



Email Audrey S. Mitchell (astadler@uga.edu) with the following information:

- School name
- Contest coordinator's contact information (email and street addresses, phone #)
- Total number of students participating in the contest by grade level
- Number of certificates, first-place, second-place and third-place ribbons needed

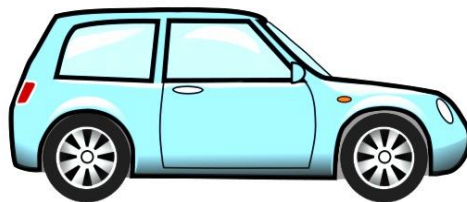
NOTE: For a fast, convenient way to obtain certificates, teachers may download and print participation certificates from <https://georgiawildlife.com/postercontest>

State-Level Awards: The artwork of first-, second- and third-place winners in the state-level contest will be showcased on Georgia DNR Wildlife Resources Division and State Botanical Garden social media. Winners will also receive state-level award ribbons and may be recognized in other ways.



Special Perk for Teachers & Parents of State Winners!

The teacher and one parent of each state-level winner will receive a **free wildlife license plate**, thanks to TERN! Details will be emailed to the winning students' teachers and parents. To see wildlife tag options, visit gadnr.org/license-plates.



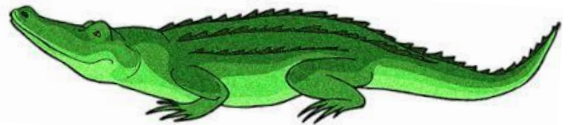
Thanks for participating!



Thirty-fifth Annual Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest Entry Form

Colors of the Wild: Blend in or Stand Out?

Email Deadline: March 7, 2025



Student's Name: _____

Age: _____ Grade: _____ Division (circle one): 1 2 3 4

Total number of participants in this age division: _____

Poster Description: _____

Contest Coordinator: _____

School or Homeschool Group: _____

Street Address: _____

Coordinator's Email: _____

Coordinator's Phone #: _____

Parent's Email: _____

**For each state-level poster contest entry,
email a photo or PDF of this completed form
along with a photo of the artwork to:**

Audrey S. Mitchell at the State Botanical
Garden of Georgia - astadler@uga.edu

