

# 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest



Open to Georgia students in K-5<sup>th</sup> 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 **36<sup>th</sup> annual Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest!** As part of the 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 2025-26 theme: **Welcome to the Wild World, Little Ones!**

Wild animals have young in a variety of ways. Some give live birth and others lay eggs. In general, mammals and birds are devoted parents for many weeks, months or even years. On the other hand, most amphibians, fish, reptiles and invertebrates don't care for their young at all. Nature is full of exceptions, though. For example, the brown-headed cowbird lays its eggs in the nests of other bird species and flies away. Most reptiles lay eggs and leave, but American alligator mothers incubate their eggs and protect hatchlings from predators for a year or two. Rather than broadcasting eggs as many fish do, male bluehead chubs make a nest and guard the eggs until they hatch. Bumblebees feed nectar and pollen to their brood, and wolf spiders carry offspring on their backs to keep them warm and protected.

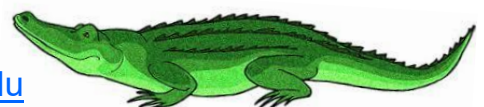


Young animals come into the world during different seasons, too. In the spring, birds are nesting, young bobcats and foxes emerge from dens, and the first bats of the year are born. As summer approaches, spotted fawns blend in with the sun-dappled forest floor. Quarter-sized box turtles hatch and leave their nests. Young snakes arrive, most hatching from eggs (inside or outside the mother's body) but some through live birth. New life even appears in fall and winter! Right whale calves are born, ornate chorus frog tadpoles appear and black bears give birth to cubs while still hibernating.

New life is a cause for celebration! By participating in the Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest, you can help students to appreciate wildlife and the habitats they need to survive, as well as learn how our actions can help or harm them. See the Teacher Tips on the next page to help you get started! Questions? Visit [georgiawildlife.com/PosterContest](http://georgiawildlife.com/PosterContest) or contact a state contest coordinator:

**Linda May** – (706) 319-0211, [linda.may@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:linda.may@dnr.ga.gov)

**Audrey S. Mitchell** – (706) 583-0894, [astadler@uga.edu](mailto: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:



**Welcome to the Wild World, Little Ones!**

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 6, 2026**. 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 2026.

## Supporting Activities

**Kindergarten:** Compare/contrast animals that give live birth to those that lay eggs. (SKL2)

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade:** Discuss what different species of young animals need to survive. (S1L1)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Research the life cycles of different species of wildlife. What season are young born or hatched? How long do the parents care for their young, if at all? (S2L1)



**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:**



Learn about dinosaur egg fossils and how young were raised. (S3E2)

<https://www.amnh.org/dinosaurs/dinosaur-eggs>

Discuss how rescuing “orphaned” wildlife may do more harm than good. (S3L2) <https://georgiawildlife.com/sick-injured-or-orphaned-wildlife>



**4<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Discuss why some animals have many offspring and others don't. Does the number of young imply the role that species plays in food chains (predator vs. prey)? (S4L1)

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Pick a wildlife species native to Georgia to research. Which characteristics are inherited from its parents and which are acquired? Both kinds of traits may be physical or behavioral. (S5L2)

<https://www.futurezoologistacademy.com/science-resources/mini-science-lessons/inherited-vs-acquired-traits>

# Poster Contest Rules & Guidelines

## Sponsorship and Judging

The 36<sup>th</sup> 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 2025-26 theme is **Welcome to the Wild World, Little Ones!** 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. Computer-generated artwork is 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 6, 2026**: [astadler@uga.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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

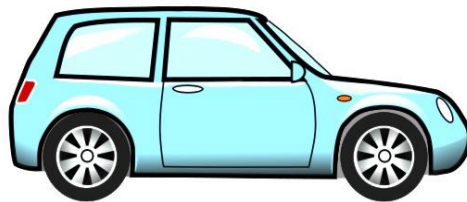
**NOTE:** For a fast, convenient way to obtain certificates, teachers may download and print participation certificates from <https://georgiawildlife.com/postercontest>

**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](http://gadnr.org/license-plates).



# Thanks for participating!



# Thirty-sixth Annual Give Wildlife a Chance Poster Contest Entry Form

## Welcome to the Wild World, Little Ones!

**Email Deadline: March 6, 2026**



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](mailto:astadler@uga.edu)

