



St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SLC Youth Bureau Launches “250 Years Strong: Youth Perspectives” Art & Expression Contest

CANTON, NY —In celebration of National Youth Art Month and America’s upcoming 250th anniversary, the St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau is proud to announce the launch of the “250 Years Strong: Youth Perspectives” Youth Art & Expression Contest. From “We the People” to “We the Future,” students in grades K-12 will tell America’s story by exploring what it means to belong, lead, and serve. The contest encourages youth to reflect on St. Lawrence County pride, what America means to them, their hopes for the future, and how young people will help shape the next 250 years.

Students may submit one entry in one of the following categories:

- Painting & Drawing
- Photography
- Essay & Poetry (up to 300 words)

Grade Divisions

- Elementary Lower (Grades K–2)
- Elementary Upper (Grades 3–5)
- Middle School (Grades 6–8)
- High School (Grades 9–12)

First, second, and third place winners will be selected in each grade division and submission category by members of the SLC Youth Committee Teen Ambassadors, the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators, and the St. Lawrence County Youth Advisory Board.

Selected entries will be displayed at the Lead ‘26 Student Engagement Evening and Open House on April 23, 2026 at 5:30 PM at the Human Services Building, 80 State Highway 310, Canton.

The submission deadline is Friday, April 3, 2026. All artwork, photography, and written submissions must be delivered to the St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau and include the student’s name, grade, school, and contact information.

“This contest is about elevating youth voice at a historic moment in our nation’s story,” said Alexa Backus Chase, Director of the St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau. “As we approach 250 years as a nation, we want to hear directly from young people about what belonging, leadership, and service mean to them and how they envision the future.”

For more information please contact the St. Lawrence County Youth Bureau by calling (315) 379-9464 or by emailing AChase@stlawco.gov.