



2026 Morgan Hill Youth Poster Art Competition

'BE THE LIGHT — One Light Can Spark Many'

Calling all young artists! What does it mean to “Be the Light”? How can one act of kindness, courage, empathy, respect or inclusion inspire others? Show us through your art! The City of Morgan Hill’s Library, Culture & Arts Commission (LCAC) and Kiwanis Morgan Hill are excited to present the 2026 Youth Poster Art Contest, open to young artists from Transitional Kindergarten (TK) through 12th grade.

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THEME: “Be the Light — One Light Can Spark Many”

Create an original poster showing us what this theme means to you. Think kindness, courage, empathy, respect, inclusion, friendship, unity or helping others—and bring the theme to life through your eyes and your art! Your interpretation can be personal, imaginative, joyful, thoughtful or bold.

PRIZES:

Five 1st Prizes —one \$150 cash prize in each of the five age/grade categories
 Five 2nd Prizes — one \$100 cash prize in each of the five age/grade categories

IMPORTANT DATES:

Contest Begins: September 1, 2026

Entry Deadline: Sunday, October 25, 2026

Winners Announced: Sunday, November 1, 2026

Prizes Awarded: Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at the **Library, Culture & Arts Commission (LCAC) Meeting, 6:00 PM, City Council Chambers**

ART SHOWCASE:

Your creativity deserves to be seen! **2026 contest entries will be proudly displayed at City Council Chambers for the awards presentation and may also be showcased at LCAC events.**

POSTER ART CONTEST REQUIREMENTS

1. THE CONTEST IS OPEN TO:

- (i) Students in TK–12 attending Morgan Hill Unified School District (MHUSD) schools
- (ii) Morgan Hill residents attending private schools.

2. FIVE AGE/GRADE CATEGORIES: One entry per student in one of the age categories.

- (1) **TK–2nd Grade** — Lower Elementary
- (2) **3rd–5th Grade** — Upper Elementary
- (3) **6th–8th Grade** — Middle School
- (4) **9th–12th Grade** — High School
- (5) **Special Artist** — for students receiving special education services

3. ORIGINAL ARTWORK & THEME:

All entries must be **original artwork created by the individual artist** and must reflect the 2026 theme: **"Be the Light — One Light Can Spark Many."**

Please do not use copyrighted material. Adults may encourage and support young artists, but **an adult may not alter the creative integrity of a minor's work.**

4. SIZE OF ARTWORK:

The poster art entry must be: **Minimum size: 8.5" × 11", Maximum size: 11" × 17"**

5. PARTICIPANT ENTRY FORM & IDENTIFICATION:

A **completed Participant Entry Form is required** for every entry. Entrants must submit their artwork together with a completed Participant Entry Form. **Online submission of the form is preferred**, or a printout of the completed PDF form may be attached to the back of the artwork. To ensure **impartial and blind judging**, please put all identifying information **ON THE BACK OF THE ARTWORK ONLY. Do not put the artist's name or other identifying information on the front of the artwork.**

6. DROP-OFF & DEADLINE:

Completed poster art entries must be dropped off by: **Sunday, October 25, 2026, 5 PM**

Drop-off location: BookSmart, 421 Vineyard Town Center, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

7. ARTIST STATEMENT:

An **artwork title and Artist Statement are encouraged for students in 3rd grade and above.** In **100 words or fewer**, artists may explain what inspired their work and how their artwork expresses the theme, **"Be the Light — One Light Can Spark Many."**

The Artist Statement will give the judges additional insight into the artist's ideas and creative choices and may help them better understand the work.

8. FINAL SELECTION, JUDGING & NOTIFICATION:

Entries will be reviewed by a panel of judges using a **blind judging process.** the artwork and Artist Statement, will be visible to the judges; the artist's identity will not be revealed.

Entries will be judged primarily on: **interpretation of the theme, originality, creativity, theme, emotional impact and self-expression**

Artistic technique will be secondary to self-expression. All decisions of the judges are final and binding. Awardees will be notified individually by email.

Winners will be announced Sunday, November 1, 2026, and winning entries will also be announced through social media and Morgan Hill 411.

9. DISPLAY & PRIZES:

The **2026 contest entries** will be proudly displayed at **City Council Chambers during the award ceremony** and may also be showcased at LCAC events.

Prizes will be awarded in person on: **Tuesday, November 3, 2026, 6:00 PM. Library, Culture & Arts Commission (LCAC) Meeting, City Council Chambers**

Prizes: Five 1st Prizes —one \$150 cash prize in each category, Five 2nd Prizes —one \$100 cash prize in each of the five age/grade categories.

10. OWNERSHIP & LICENSE:

Ownership in any submission shall remain the property of the entrant, but entry into this program constitutes entrant's irrevocable permission and consent to display, copy, reproduce, enhance, print, sub-license, publish. The sponsors of the competition are not responsible for lost or damaged entries. Submission of entry constitutes acceptance of all rules and conditions.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS?

Please email LibraryCultureArts_Commission@morganhill.ca.gov with any questions.

STUDENT FIRST NAME: _____

STUDENT LAST NAME: _____

AGE: _____

STUDENT HOME ADDRESS: _____

SCHOOL GRADE (PICK ONE):

Elementary Lower (TK - 2nd) ☐

Elementary Higher (3rd - 5th) ☐

Middle School (6th - 8th) ☐

High School (9th - 12th) ☐

Special Artist (all grades) ☐

PARENT OR GUARDIAN FIRST NAME: _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN LAST NAME: _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN EMAIL OR PHONE: _____

Please provide the contact information - either a phone number or an email - of your parent or guardian (this is required for communication purposes & how we notify contest winners).

TITLE OF ARTWORK:**ARTWORK MEDIUM:**

What materials did you use to create your artwork? For example: mixed media, paint, colored pencils, collage, etc.

ARTIST STATEMENT:

Please describe how your artwork relates to the contest theme (Max 100 words)

ARTWORK OWNERSHIP & PERMISSIONS:

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ARTWORK ENTRY AGREEMENT:

By selecting yes, I agree to the above *Artwork Ownership & Permissions* statement and to the rules of this art poster competition.

Yes, I agree ☐

STUDENT SIGNATURE:**PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE:**