KANSAS PTA
ARTS & AWARDS

AWARD DEADLINE DETAILS

Kansas PTA is proud to provide opportunities for local units of Kansas to participate in several award programs: Citizenship Essay/Poem Contest, Citizenship Contest Theme Search, National PTA Reflections Contest, National PTA Reflections Theme Search, Unit Membership Awards, Virginia Peak Outstanding Leadership Award, Volunteer of the Year Award, Outstanding Educator Award and Outstanding Student Award.
Program deadlines are noted below. Guidelines and forms are available in this document and at www.kansas-pta.org

2026-2027 REFLECTIONS PROGRAM: "THE COMMUNITY I WANT TO BUILD"

Local Unit Chair	Due Oct. 15 – or as determined by the local unit
*Council Chair	Due Nov. 2 – or as determined by the Council
KS PTA Arts & Awards Chair	Due Jan. 5

2026-2027 CITIZENSHIP PROGRAM: "WHAT MY CULTURE MEANS TO ME"

Local Unit Chair	Due Dec. 5 – or as determined by the local unit
*Council Chair	Due Jan. 15 – or as determined by the Council
KS PTA Arts & Awards Chair	Due Feb. 15

***If your unit is not part of a Council, submit directly to KS PTA Arts & Awards Chair**

NATIONAL REFLECTIONS THEME SEARCH CONTEST

Opens in September: https://www.pta.org/home/programs/reflections/

Kansas PTA Arts in Education Awards Ceremony

KS PTA hosts a state-wide awards ceremony honoring all student winners in the Spring.
Date and location TBD.

UNIT MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

All dues sent to KS PTA must be submitted (via Givebacks) by March 1 to be eligible for awards.

The following awards information and entry forms can be found on the website:
https://kansas-pta.org/programs/arts-awards/

Submit to: KS PTA Office **Due** March 15

VIRGINIA PEAK OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD
OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD
OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD
OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Important Contacts:
Kansas PTA Arts & Awards Chair – ksartsawards@gmail.com
Kansas PTA Office – kansaspta@gmail.com

The Local PTA Leader's Guide

Citizenship Writing Program

Kansas PTA is proud to sponsor, support and encourage our students in grades 5-12 to write an essay or poem on the selected theme for the Citizenship Writing Program. This theme changes every year and encourages students to think about Citizenship in a broad sense.

The 2026-2027 Citizenship theme is **"THE COMMUNITY I WANT TO BUILD?"**



December 5 is the recommended **school deadline** for entries. This will allow time for you to have the work judged and the winners to be submitted to the state.

January 15 is the **deadline for the winners to be submitted to your council PTA (if applicable).** Check with your Council PTA.

February 15 is the **deadline for winners to be submitted to the STATE PTA.** Digital files only will be collected through a Google Drive site (TBA) or send to ksartsawards@gmail.com

Spring 2026 Kansas PTA will host an awards ceremony in the Spring, recognizing Reflections and Citizenship Winners. Date to be announced.

Additional Resources:
https://kansas-pta.org/programs/arts-awards/
https://www.smac-pta.org/reflections
And we're here to help in any way we can! Feel free to contact us with question
ksartsawards@gmail.com

KANSAS PTA
CITIZENSHIP
WRITING PROGRAM

The entry categories for each grade level in the Citizenship Writing Program are:


POETRY


ESSAY

La Guía para Líderes de la PTA Local

Kansas PTA se enorgullece de patrocinar, apoyar y animar a nuestros estudiantes desde quinto hasta duodécimo grado a escribir un ensayo o poema sobre el tema seleccionado para el Programa de Escritura sobre Ciudadanía. Este tema cambia cada año y anima a los estudiantes a reflexionar sobre la ciudadanía en un sentido amplio.

El tema de Ciudadanía para 2026-2027: “LA COMUNIDAD QUE QUIERO CONSTRUIR”



El 5 de diciembre es la fecha límite recomendada para que las escuelas reciban las participaciones. Esto permitirá suficiente tiempo para que los trabajos sean evaluados y los ganadores sean enviados a la PTA estatal.

El 15 de enero es la fecha límite para enviar a los ganadores a su PTA del Consejo (si corresponde). Consulte con su PTA del Consejo.

El 15 de febrero es la fecha límite para enviar a los ganadores a la PTA ESTATAL. Solo se aceptarán archivos digitales, que se recopilarán a través de un sitio de Google Drive (por anunciar) o pueden enviarse a ksartsawards@gmail.com.

Kansas PTA organizará una ceremonia de premiación en la primavera para reconocer a los ganadores de los programas Reflections y Ciudadanía. La fecha se anunciará próximamente.

Recursos adicionales:
https://kansas-pta.org/programs/arts-awards/
https://www.smac-pta.org/reflections

KANSAS PTA
CITIZENSHIP
WRITING PROGRAM

Las categorías de participación para cada nivel de grado en el Programa de Escritura sobre Ciudadanía son:

POETRY

ESSAY

General Participation Rules

1. Theme
The theme for the 2026-2027 Kansas PTA Citizenship Program is "THE COMMUNITY I WANT TO BUILD" Only new pieces of literature inspired by the theme are acceptable.

2. Student Eligibility through Local PTAs
Students must participate in the Citizenship Program through local PTA/PTSAs in good standing or through the Kansas PTA Golden Oaks PTA. Parent groups not affiliated with the Kansas PTA association are not eligible to sponsor this program. It is the responsibility of the local and council PTA/PTSA to determine each student's eligibility in the Citizenship program.

3. Eligible Grades
Student in grades 5 through 12 may participate in the Citizenship Writing Program.

4. Categories
Students may submit an entry in poetry and/or essay. The Kansas PTA does not limit the number of entries a student may submit.

5. Children with Disabilities
PTA believes that each child with a disability should be provided a free and appropriate public education. Therefore, the Citizenship Program does not have a special category for students with disabilities. Further information regarding students can be found in the Poetry and Essay rules.

6. Deadlines
Each student must submit their entry by the deadline established by their local PTA/PTSA. Each local PTA/PTSA sponsoring the program will set a deadline for entries in adherence with the Council, Region and State deadlines. These entries are judged and selected entries are forwarded to the next level of judging by the appropriate deadline.

7. Judging
All entries are judged on originality, organization, support of thought and relevance to the theme. each PTA determines its own judges for the program. Under no conditions may parents or students contact he judges to dispute the status of the entry.
All judges' decisions are final.

8. Award Recipient Notification
All local, council and regional PTA/PTSAs are responsible for notifying students if their entry has received an award at their level of judging. The Kansas PTA Arts in Education Chairman will notify in writing the state level award recipients.

Poetry and Essay Rules

Students must adhere to the general participation rule as well as following Poetry and Essay rules.

1. The entry must relate to the current Citizenship Program Theme.
Whether an entry uses a variety of techniques or a simple approach, it will be judged primarily on how well the student portray the theme. A well-developed concept is more important than technique.

2. Each entry must b the original work of one student only.
An adult may not alter the creative integrity of a student's work. Because the program is designed to encourage student creativity, help from an adult or collaboration with other students is not allowed.

3. Plagiarized entries will be disqualified and returned to the student.
Plagiarism is defined as "to steal and pass off [the ideas or words of another] as one's own; use without crediting source. (https://www.merrieam-webster.com/dictionary/plagiarized).

4. All participants are required to fill out in its entirety and sign the Student Participation Form.
Students who have not completely filled out the entry form will not be eligible to participate in the program. In situations where the child cannot fill out the entry form or write legibly, a parent may sign his or her child's name. If the form is submitted electronically, the local chair or PTA representative can elect to accept forms without a signature.

5. Poetry entries must be a least 50 words, but may not exceed 500 words. Essay entries must be at least 200 words but may not exceed 1000 words.
Entries may be handwritten or typed. Pages should be numbered. Entries are to reflect grade-appropriate grammar and spelling.

6. Submit entries on any kind of paper, not to exceed 8 1/2 by 11 inches in size.
Entries that are multiple pages must be submitted on one side of the paper only. Write the student's name on the back of each page in case pages become separated. Students may have their entry typed by another person as long as the original work or copy of the original work is attached.

7. Student who are physically challenged may dictate to another person who may type or write down the original work.
Transcribers should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the students' original work.

8. Student for whom English is not their first language may submit entries in their own language.
An interpretive translation must accompany the entry. Translators should make every attempt to retain the same level of language and accuracy that is reflected in the students' original work.

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KANSAS PTA
CITIZENSHIP
WRITING PROGRAM

Student Entry Form

Grade (check one)

- ☐ 5th
- ☐ 6th
- ☐ 7th
- ☐ 8th
- ☐ 9th
- ☐ 10th
- ☐ 11th
- ☐ 12th

Local Unit Due Date

All entries should be submitted labeled only with the student's entry type and grade level. Identifying information is only to be on this form which is to be stapled on the back on the entry. Entries submitted with identifying information will be returned as ineligible.

Student Name

Address

City **Zip Code**

Student Email

Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Phone

Parent/Guardian Email

Category (check one)

- ☐ Poetry
- ☐ Essay

PTA includes state, region, council, and local PTA/PTSA organization or unit. I grant PTA permission to use my works for commercial or noncommercial use, including, but not limited to public presentation of the work and reproduction of the work in print, electronic, and multimedia formats to promote the Citizenship Program. PTA may continue to use my work as long as it has access to a copy or to a slide. PTA is not responsible for lost or damaged works. Entries may not be returned. I understand that I must participate in the Citizenship Program through a PTA/PTSA in good standing.
I affirm that this is my own original work.

I understand that the submission of my entry into the Citizenship Writing Program constitutes acceptance of the above condition.

Student Signature (required)

Parent/Guardian Signature (required)

PLEASE NOTE: If this form is not completely filled out prior to submitting to your local PTA/PTSA, PTA has the right to disqualify your entry. Write legibly!

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL PTA

Local PTA ID _____ PTA Name _____
PTA Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
Local Chair Name _____ Phone _____
Email _____

KANSAS PTA USE ONLY

Local PTA Status:

_____ Membership Dues Received _____ Bylaws Received w/Signatures _____ Copy of IRS Form 990 Received

KANSAS PTA
CITIZENSHIP
WRITING PROGRAM

Program Judges Form
Essay Category

The entries you receive to judge will have a number penciled on the back. Please match the numbers on this form to the entries when you are recording your scores. You will also receive a copy of the guidelines that the student followed, so you are aware of the criteria they were given.
Please use a point system of five (5) points per area with a total of 25 points. The five areas are noted on the table below. If you have a tie after you have assigned and totaled the points for each entry, please examine and score the entries again. If you are judging more that one grade level, you will be provided a judging sheet for each grade level.

Please do not combine grade levels.

Grade Level _____ **Teacher** _____

Entry	Originality	Organization	Support of Thought	Relevant to Theme	Overall	Total Points
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2						
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KANSAS PTA
CITIZENSHIP
WRITING PROGRAM

Program Judges Form
Poetry Category

The entries you receive to judge will have a number penciled on the back. Please match the numbers on this form to the entries when you are recording your scores. You will also receive a copy of the guidelines that the student followed, so you are aware of the criteria they were given.
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