

## **2026-2027 “What Home Means to Me” NAHRO Poster Contest; Entry Rules**

Once again, **NAHRO** will hold a poster contest for children associated with affordable housing and community development programs owned or administered by national NAHRO member agencies. Posters will reflect the national theme of “**What Home Means to Me.**” The contest is a collaborative effort of NAHRO’s chapter/state, regional, and national organizations. **To be considered for national honors, all entries must come through a local chapter (OHAC), then onto the region (NCRC).**

**National Prizes:** All 12 national winners will receive cash prizes. The grand prize winner, whose art is also featured on the calendar cover, and one legal guardian will also receive a trip to NAHRO’s Washington Conference to meet the NAHRO membership and their Congressional offices.

### **Poster Specifications: Non-compliant posters will be disqualified**

- **THEME** - "What Home Means to Me"
- **SIZE** – All posters **must be 22" x 28"** and have a **LANDSCAPE/HORIZONTAL** orientation to be considered for national judging and featured in the 2025 Calendar.
- **MEDIA**- Contestant may use any art media (marker, crayon, paint, collage, textiles, etc.), but please consider that posters will need to be packaged, mailed and reproduced.
- **MAILING** – All entries **must be** mailed flat.
- **RELEASE FORM** - All contestants **must sign** a [photo release](#) (see attached form) making their entry the property of NAHRO and permitting duplication/publication thereof. The release form should be secured to the back of the entry.
- **IDENTIFICATION** – Contestants name, grade level and housing authority **must be** written on the back of each poster entry in addition to being listed on the application also attached to the entry.
- **NARRATIVE** - All contestants are asked to provide a [short narrative](#) (see attached form) on the inspiration, vision and importance of their poster design. The narrative should be attached to the entry.
- **ALL Finalists MUST provide their NAHRO member ID to be considered for Judging.**
- **RETURN OF POSTERS** – NAHRO is only responsible for returning the original poster to the national grand prize winner.
- **National Winners will be selected based on how well the artwork uses the “What Home Means to Me” theme.**

**Eligibility and Selection Categories:** Contest participation is open to all artists, ages 5-18, residing in affordable housing assisted directly or supported under community development and affordable housing programs (i.e., public or Section 8-assisted housing, CDBG, HOME, LIHTC) administered by an **active national NAHRO member authority**.

**Submission must be created by only one person. Entries created by two or more people will not be accepted.**

**Three age categories of competition:** Elementary - K to 5; Middle - 6 to 8; and High – 9 to 12.

**State/Chapter Competitions:** OHAC may submit three winners, one in each of the three age categories, to the North Central Regional Council of NAHRO (NCRC). **Each state winner will receive a \$25 gift card from OHAC.** NCRC will select three winners, one from each age category, and forward those onto the national competition in Washington, D.C. National NAHRO will not accept submissions from individual housing authorities. Any submissions sent directly to national NAHRO will be disqualified.

National honorees will be selected by a Blue Ribbon panel of judges to be assembled by NAHRO staff. The National Jury will select four winners in each of the three categories, plus an overall Grand Prize winner.

**Please submit your posters by Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, to the OHAC Corporate Office.**

**OHAC Corporate Office  
c/o Ashley Howell  
88 West 3rd Street  
Mansfield, OH 44902**



Please contact Ashley Howell ([ashley@ohac.com](mailto:ashley@ohac.com)) with any questions.



## Application

**Name of Applicant-artist:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Applicants' Age:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Code                      Street Address                      City                      State                      ZIP

**Housing Agency:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Age category:** Elementary: K-5<sup>th</sup> (\_\_\_)    Middle: 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> (\_\_\_)    High: 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> (\_\_\_)

**Name of Parent or Guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Required if applicant is under 18 years of age)

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Conditions of submission:

Applicant and parent or guardian understands and agrees that upon submission of the applicant's poster, the poster will become the sole property of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). NAHRO shall have exclusive and full rights to copy, reproduce and distribute the poster in connection with its poster calendar and may retain the original of any poster. Applicant, and parent or guardian for and on behalf of applicant, hereby release and discharge NAHRO and any and all Regional Councils, State Chapters or other affiliates of NAHRO from any and all liabilities, claims, suits, or actions, including without limitation any claim to payment of compensation, in connection with NAHRO's possession, use, copying, reproduction, and/or distribution of the applicant's poster.

By signing below, I certify that:

- I meet the eligibility criteria to participate in the "What Home Means to Me" Poster Contest.
- I have provided true information to the best of my knowledge.
- I grant NAHRO permission to use the artist's likeness in a photograph, video, or other digital media in any and all of its publications, including web-based publications, without payment or other consideration in connection with the What Home Means to Me Poster Contest.
- I additionally waive any right to inspect or approve the finished product wherein the artist's likeness, poster or essay appears and any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of the photo, poster or essay.
- I or any parent or legal guardian signing on applicant's behalf hereby indicate agreement to the conditions stated above. Any person signing as guardian further represents that he or she is fully and lawfully empowered to act as guardian for the applicant.

**Signature of Applicant/Artist:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of Parent Guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Local Housing Agency Contest Representative Contact Information (Local Housing Agency Office Only)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

NAHRO Member ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_





## NAHRO PHOTO RELEASE FORM

I hereby grant NAHRO permission to use my likeness in a photograph, video, or other digital media ("photo") in any and all its publications, including web-based publications, without payment or other consideration.

I understand and agree that all photos will become the property of NAHRO and will not be returned.

I hereby irrevocably authorize NAHRO to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish, or distribute these photos for any lawful purpose. In addition, I waive any right to inspect or approve the finished product wherein my likeness appears. Additionally, I waive any right to royalties or other compensation arising or related to the use of the photo.

I hereby hold harmless, release, and forever discharge NAHRO from all claims, demands, and causes of action which I, my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, or any other persons acting on my behalf or on behalf of my estate have or may have by reason of this authorization.

**I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE PHOTO RELEASE. I AFFIRM THAT I AM AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE, OR IF I AM UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE, I HAVE OBTAINED THE REQUIRED CONSENT OF MY PARENT/GUARDIAN AS EVIDENCED BY THEIR SIGNATURES BELOW. I ACCEPT:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**If under 18, PARENT/GUARDIAN MUST SIGN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date