

# SUTTON AWARD

*for Excellence in Communicating Current Conservation Issues*



## 2026 Sutton Award

### About the Sutton Award

Established in 2005 by the Sutton Avian Research Center, the Sutton Award recognizes high school students who demonstrate the ability to communicate current conservation topics in compelling ways. The Sutton Award is comprised of up to \$20,000 in cash prizes, which will be distributed to the students with winning submissions and their instructors as determined by the selection committee. The 2026 Sutton Award is made possible through the continued support of generous donors.

### Eligibility

1. Participant must be a current Oklahoma student (public, private or home schooled) in grades 9-12.
2. Student must not be an employee or an immediate family member of an employee of the Sutton Center or NatureWorks.

### Submission Requirements

1. There is no entry fee. Only ONE entry per student.
2. Create an original piece of artwork about a current conservation topic. The project should focus on your personal interests and/or involvement in conservation and help tell a compelling story.
3. Choose ONE of the following format categories for your submission:
  - a. **2-D:** Submissions may include graphite, charcoal, pastels, watercolor, acrylics, etc. A maximum of two digital images of the work will be accepted.
  - b. **3-D:** Submissions may include sculpture, ceramics, mixed media, etc. Three to five images of the work will be accepted. All sides must be shown in the images and one image should include a pen, pencil, or other object to show scale.
  - c. **Photography:** Submissions may include one color or black/white photograph or a collection of photographs displayed within a single frame.

**NOTE:** There is not a digital art category this year. Photographs may be digitally altered, but no other digitally-manipulated submissions will be accepted.

4. Compose a short essay that tells us about the wildlife conservation story behind your artwork and what you want people to know about the topic. Essays will be displayed alongside your art piece.
  - a. Essay Formatting: One-page Word document, double-spaced, 12 pt. Arial font, 1-inch margins, no indents, black/white print, no background, with the title of your piece boldfaced and centered at the top of the page.
  - b. Title of essay should match the title of your art piece.
  - c. Word documents should be saved as a PDF for submittal.
  - d. Identifying information about yourself or your school should not be included in your essay.
  - e. Proper grammar, spelling, etc., is expected.
5. Register and submit images of your artwork and essay at <https://2026suttonaward.artcall.org>. Online Registration will open December 1, 2025, and will close at 11:59 p.m. CST on January 9, 2026. No late submissions will be accepted.

*Thank you for participating in the 2026 Sutton Award!*

### CONTACT:

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