



## 2025-2026 “What Home Means to Me” Contest Application

### ABOUT THE “WHAT HOME MEANS TO ME” CALENDAR

Since 2008, the “What Home Means to Me” Poster Contest has recognized the amazing, poignant art of children who live in affordable housing across the country. Their heartfelt messages about their homes underscore the importance of the work that housers and community development professionals do. Every year, NAHRO compiles a calendar featuring the posters of 12 children, which are distributed to NAHRO member agencies and Congress.

### CONTEST OVERVIEW

The national poster contest is the culmination of numerous poster contests held by NAHRO member agencies, state organizations and regional councils across the United States. NAHRO does not accept national poster contest submissions directly from individuals, member agencies or state organizations.

Each of NAHRO’s eight regions manage their own submission and judging processes, selecting three posters (one from each age category) from local and/or state organization submissions. The 24 regional winners are then judged by a national panel, and 12 national winners are selected to be featured in NAHRO’s “What Home Means to Me” calendar for the following year.

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

### Eligibility

All artists, age 5-18, must reside in a household, or be provided a housing-related service, managed by a NAHRO member agency in good standing.

### Poster Specifications

- Posters should be created to represent the theme “**What Home Means to Me**”
- Posters must be at least 8.5 x 11in paper size (letter size) and have a LANDSCAPE (HORIZONTAL) orientation. Larger posters will be accepted, up to 22 x 28in.
- Artists may use any art media (marker, crayon, paint, collage, textiles, etc.), but please consider that posters will need to be packaged, mailed and reproduced.
- The artist’s name, grade level, and housing authority must be written on the back of each poster entry.
- Posters may only be created by one eligible artist.

**Note:** *If selected, poster contest winners will be asked to provide a high-resolution headshot photo (of the artist).*



**CONTEST SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS AND DEADLINES**

National winners are selected from region-level winning entries, which are selected from state and/or local entries. As such, deadlines vary widely based on the artist’s location, from as early as January to as late as June. To learn more about NAHRO’s regions, please visit [www.nahro.org/regions](http://www.nahro.org/regions)

**IA NAHRO holds a state contest and sends their top three winners (three from each category) on to the regional contest. IA NAHRO member housing authorities are encouraged to hold a local poster contest and submit their top 3 entries from each age category by January 31, 2025 to: Amy Tooley, Sioux City Housing Authority; 405 6th Street, Room 107, Sioux City, IA 51102.**

**Poster artists:** Create your poster, complete the application information form and essay, and return them to the designated staff member at your housing agency before their deadline.

Housing Agency \_\_\_\_\_ Deadline \_\_\_\_\_

Submit materials to \_\_\_\_\_

**NAHRO member agency:** Verify that the poster meets the specifications and the application is complete, fill out the member agency section of the application verification page (5) and submit the materials to either your state (if applicable) or regional representative before their deadline.

*(if applicable)* **NAHRO state representative:** Conduct your state-level judging, fill out the state section of the winning poster’s application verification page (5), and submit the winning materials to your regional representative.

State Organization \_\_\_\_\_ Deadline \_\_\_\_\_

Submit materials to \_\_\_\_\_

Regional Council \_\_\_\_\_ Deadline \_\_\_\_\_

Submit materials to \_\_\_\_\_

**NAHRO regional representative:** Conduct your region-level judging, fill out the region section of the winning poster’s application verification page (5), and submit the winning materials to the Housing America Advisory Committee Liaison at [housingamerica@nahro.org](mailto:housingamerica@nahro.org) by July 1, 2025.



**ARTIST INFORMATION FORM**

Artist Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name of Parent or Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Age Category**

What is the artist's grade level? (Check one)

- Elementary School (K-5)
- Middle School (6-8)
- High School (9-12)

**By signing below, I certify that:**

- I have provided true information to the best of my knowledge.
- I understand and agree that upon submission, the artist's poster and essay will become the sole property of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). NAHRO shall have exclusive and full rights to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish, or distribute the poster and essay for any lawful purpose and may retain the original documents.
- 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.

Artist Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



**ESSAY**

Please write a short paragraph (100 word or less) explaining **What Home Means to You:**



**NAHRO VERIFICATION FORM**

**Section to be completed by the NAHRO Member Agency only**

Agency Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ NAHRO ID # \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I certify that this application is complete and that my agency is National NAHRO member.  
Initials

*(If applicable)* **Section to be completed by the NAHRO State Organization only**

State Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I certify that this application is complete and has been selected to advance to the regional poster contest for their age group in accordance with our state organization rules/policies.  
Initials

**Section to be completed by the NAHRO regional representative only**

Region \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I certify that this application is complete, has been selected as the region's poster contest winner for their age group in accordance with our regional rules/policies, and will advance to the national poster contest.  
Initials