

SOUTHFIELD CELEBRATES AMERICA 250 “WE THE PEOPLE” STUDENT ART CONTEST RULES, REQUIREMENTS, & RUBRIC

ABOUT THE CONTEST

In celebration of America’s 250th anniversary, the City of Southfield invites students to create original artwork inspired by the phrase:

“We the People”

Students are encouraged to reflect on unity, community, civic responsibility, and the future of our country through creative expression.

ELIGIBILITY

- Open to students in **Kindergarten through 12th Grade**
 - Please note the difference in requirements between divisions/grades
 - One submission per student
-

ARTWORK REQUIREMENTS

K–5:

- Max size: 11” x 17”
- Drawing, painting, or collage
- Flat artwork only

6–8:

- Max size: 18” x 24”
- Drawing, painting, collage, mixed media, or digital (printed & mounted)
- **Artist statement required (100–250 words)**

9–12:

- Max size: 24” x 36”
- Fine art, photography, or digital (printed & mounted)
- **Artist statement required (250–500 words)**
- Must demonstrate concept and depth
- No AI-generated artwork

All Entries Must:

- Be original student work
 - Be flat (no 3D unless pre-approved)
-

HOW TO SUBMIT

STEP 1: LABEL YOUR ARTWORK

On the back of each piece, include:

- Student Name
- Grade
- School Name
- Teacher Name

STEP 2: ATTACH COVER SHEET

Each submission must include the attached **Student Submission Form & Release Form**

STEP 3: SUBMIT ARTWORK

Drop-off Location:

Southfield City Hall

Attn: Rochelle Freeman, Business & Economic Development department

26000 Evergreen Road

Southfield, MI 48076

Deadline:

Friday, May 22, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Late entries will not be accepted.

TEACHER SUBMISSIONS (RECOMMENDED)

- Bundle classroom entries together
 - Ensure each piece includes:
 - Student info
 - Cover sheet
 - Artist statement (if required)
-

RECOGNITION

Selected students will:

- Be honored at the **Southfield Celebrates America 250 event on June 24, 2026**
 - Receive awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place
 - Have artwork displayed publicly
 - Be considered for inclusion (or reduced photograph of piece included) in the City's Time Capsule
-

JUDGING RUBRIC

(Students should use this to guide their work)

K–5 (Simple Rubric)

Criteria	Description	Score (1–5)
Understanding of Theme	Shows what “We the People” means	
Creativity	Original and imaginative	
Effort	Time and care shown	
Expression	Clear idea or message	
Craftsmanship	Neatness and completion	

6–8 Rubric

Criteria	Description	Score (1–5)
Understanding of Theme	Clear connection to civic ideas	
Creativity & Originality	Unique interpretation	
Skill & Craftsmanship	Quality and technique	
Artist Statement	Thoughtful explanation	
Impact	Strong message or feeling	

9–12 Rubric (Weighted)

Criteria	Weight
Concept & Interpretation	30%
Creativity & Originality	20%
Technical Skill	20%
Artistic Maturity	15%
Artist Statement	15%

QUESTIONS

Shelly Freeman
Business & Economic Development
City of Southfield
rfreeman@cityofsouthfield.com
248-796-4161

SOUTHFIELD CELEBRATES AMERICA 250
“WE THE PEOPLE” STUDENT ART CONTEST
(Attach to artwork)

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

School: _____

Teacher Name: _____

Teacher Email: _____

Title of Artwork (optional): _____

 **PARENT / GUARDIAN PERMISSION**

I give permission for my child to participate in the Southfield Celebrates America 250 Art Contest.

I understand that:

- Artwork may be displayed publicly
- Artwork may be photographed or used in City materials
- Student first name, grade, and school may be shared
- Prizes and recognition may be awarded to select participants; details are subject to final determination by the City.

Child's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Email (optional): _____

SOUTHFIELD CELEBRATES AMERICA 250

“WE THE PEOPLE” STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

RULES, REQUIREMENTS, & RUBRIC

ABOUT THE CONTEST

In celebration of America’s 250th anniversary, the City of Southfield invites students to submit original essays inspired by the phrase:

“We the People”

Students are encouraged to reflect on unity, community, civic responsibility, and the future of our country through thoughtful written expression.

ELIGIBILITY

- Open to students in Kindergarten through 12th Grade
 - Please note the difference in requirements between divisions/grades
 - One submission per student
-

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS

K–5:

- 1 paragraph (approximately 3–5 sentences)
- May be handwritten or typed
- Focus on what “We the People” means to them

6–8:

- 250–500 words
- Typed, double-spaced preferred
- Should clearly express ideas about community, unity, or civic responsibility

9–12:

- 500–1,000 words
- Typed, double-spaced
- Should demonstrate depth, critical thinking, and connection to civic themes
- May include personal perspective, historical context, or future vision

All Entries Must:

- Be original student work
- Be written by the student (no AI-generated content)
- Clearly reflect the theme “We the People”

 **HOW TO SUBMIT**

STEP 1: PREPARE YOUR ESSAY

Include the following at the top of the essay or on a cover page:

- Student Name
- Grade
- School Name
- Teacher Name

STEP 2: ATTACH COVER SHEET

Each submission must include the attached Student Submission Form & Release Form

STEP 3: SUBMIT ESSAY

Drop-off or Email Submission:

Drop-off Location:

Southfield City Hall

Attn: Rochelle Freeman, Business & Economic Development Department

26000 Evergreen Road

Southfield, MI 48076

OR Email to:

rfreeman@cityofsouthfield.com

Deadline:

Friday, May 22, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Late entries will not be accepted.

 **TEACHER SUBMISSIONS (RECOMMENDED)**

- Bundle classroom entries together
- Ensure each piece includes:
 - o Student info
 - o Cover sheet

 **RECOGNITION**

Selected students will:

- Be honored at the Southfield Celebrates America 250 event on June 24, 2026
- Receive awards for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place

- Have essays recognized or displayed at the event
- Be considered for inclusion in the City’s Time Capsule

JUDGING RUBRIC

(Students should use this to guide their work)

K–5 (Simple Rubric)

Criteria	Description	Score (1–5)
Understanding of Theme	Shows what “We the People” means	
Clarity	Easy to understand ideas	
Effort	Thought and care shown	
Expression	Clear message or feeling	

6–8 Rubric

Criteria	Description	Score (1–5)
Understanding of Theme	Clear connection to civic ideas	
Organization	Logical flow and structure	
Creativity & Voice	Original thinking and perspective	
Clarity & Grammar	Clear writing and correct usage	
Impact	Strong message or takeaway	

9–12 Rubric (Weighted)

Criteria	Weight
Content & Interpretation	30%
Organization & Structure	20%
Critical Thinking & Insight	20%
Writing Quality (Grammar/Style)	15%
Voice & Originality	15%

QUESTIONS

Shelly Freeman

Business & Economic Development

City of Southfield

rffreeman@cityofsouthfield.com

248-796-4161

SOUTHFIELD CELEBRATES AMERICA 250
“WE THE PEOPLE” STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST
(Attach to submission)

Student Name: _____

Grade: _____

School: _____

Teacher Name: _____

Teacher Email: _____

Title of Essay (optional): _____

 **PARENT / GUARDIAN PERMISSION**

I give permission for my child to participate in the Southfield Celebrates America 250 Essay Contest.

I understand that:

- Essays may be shared or displayed publicly
- Essays may be used in City materials
- Student first name, grade, and school may be shared
- Prizes and recognition may be awarded to select participants; details are subject to final determination by the City.

Child's Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Email (optional): _____