

CDFW seeks artists to enter annual California Duck Stamp Art Contest

March 13, 2020



The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) invites artists to submit original artwork to the 2020-21 California Duck Stamp Art Contest. Submissions will be accepted April 27 through May 29.

The contest is open to U.S. residents 18 years of age or older as of Feb. 27. Entrants need not reside in California.

The winning artwork will be reproduced on the 2020-21 California Duck Stamp. The top submissions will also be showcased at the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association's art show in July.

The artwork must depict the species selected by the California Fish and Game Commission, which for the 2020-21 hunting season is the canvasback. These fast-flying, diving ducks are the largest of their genus, *Aythya*, and are characterized by a white back with a reddish-brown neck and head that slopes gently into a long black beak. In California, the canvasback migrates along the Pacific Flyway to wintering grounds on lakes, estuaries and protected bays.

The design is to be in full color and the medium (or combination of mediums) of the artist's choosing, except that no photographic process, digital art, metallic paints or fluorescent paints may be used in the finished design.

Photographs, computer-generated art, art produced from a computer printer or other computer/mechanical output device (airbrush method excepted) are not eligible for entry and will be disqualified. The design must be the contestant's original hand-drawn creation.

The entry design may not be copied or duplicated from previously published art, including photographs, or images in any format published on the Internet.

All entries must be accompanied by a completed participation agreement and entry form. These forms and the official rules are available online at wildlife.ca.gov/duck-stamp/contest.

Entries will be judged in June. The judges' panel, which will consist of experts in the fields of ornithology, conservation, and art and printing, will choose first, second and third-place winners, as well as an honorable mention.

Since 1971, CDFW's annual contest has attracted top wildlife artists from around the country. All proceeds generated from stamp sales go directly to waterfowl conservation projects throughout California.

In past years, hunters were required to purchase and affix the stamp to their hunting license. Now California has moved to an automated licensing system and hunters are no longer required to carry the physical stamps in the field (proof of purchase prints directly onto the license).

However, CDFW will still produce the stamps, which can be requested by interested individuals at wildlife.ca.gov/licensing/collector-stamps.