



# Sacramento County Academic Decathlon Art Competition 2020-21

**Theme – The Cold War**

## Background

The Sacramento County Office of Education (SCOE) coordinates the annual Sacramento County Academic Decathlon. This premier scholastic competition for high school students is a 10–event competition in which students compete by taking tests in various subjects. Students also participate in an interview and deliver speeches. The highest scoring team in the county goes on to compete with teams from high schools throughout California.

## Purpose of the Art Competition

The purpose of the Student Art Competition is to promote art throughout Sacramento County and select the artwork that will be used to create posters, T-shirts and other printed materials for the 2020-21 Sacramento County Academic Decathlon. The theme for this year's academic decathlon is:

### The Cold War

Any student from a Sacramento County high school is eligible to submit an entry. Entries will be reviewed by a panel of judges. The Academic Decathlon art curriculum and art samples can be found on the USAD website at: [https://www.usad.org/USAD/media/PDFFiles/USAD-Art-Outline-20-21-\(FINAL\).pdf](https://www.usad.org/USAD/media/PDFFiles/USAD-Art-Outline-20-21-(FINAL).pdf).

## Artwork

Artwork must have the following characteristics:

- Original hand created artwork, computer generated artwork, or a combination of the two.
- Artwork that makes a visual impact, and communicates with clarity the theme of the competition. The artwork does not need to include text. SCOE will add the

Decathlon theme, date, and location to create final printed materials.

- Artwork must be easily reproduced on T-shirts and posters. Designs with clear separation of colors work best. Complex designs that have a lot of blending will not work well on T-shirts. If selected, hand created artwork will be scanned and edited in order to meet printing specifications. Artwork need not be a collage.
- The resolution of all electronic artwork MUST be at least 300 dpi for the overall file and for any embedded images in the file.
- The size of the artwork must be 11" x 17".
- A hard copy 11" x 17" must be submitted to enter the competition. Please do not send any electronic files at this time. The Overall Excellence winner will be contacted and asked to submit an electronic file (original format and as a PDF).

## Selection Criteria

The artwork will be judged on the following criteria:

1. **Execution of the Theme** - Entries will be judged on how well they reflect the overall theme and the style of one of the 18 selected works of art from the period.
2. **Craftsmanship** - Includes composition, form, technique, balance, proportion, unity and other qualities that reflect the artist's ability to successfully create in the chosen medium.
3. **Creativity** - The extent to which the student shows originality of idea, an unusual or diverse approach, and uniqueness in the artwork will be evaluated.

4. **Overall Impression** - This includes the overall response to the art as well as how effective it will be as the selected image for the competition's printed materials. In addition, judges will ensure that artwork is in good taste and contains appropriate content for high school students and the general public.

### SCOE Exhibit & Awards

Select art will be displayed in a SCOE art exhibit located on the first floor of the David P. Meaney Education Center in December and January.

The following awards will be presented:

- **Overall Excellence** - This top award will be presented to the student whose artwork best represents the Academic Decathlon theme, and addresses: concept, content, aesthetics, and design. The award-winning design will be reproduced for Decathlon materials, including: T-shirt, poster and event programs.

Awards also will be presented for digital and traditional media. Two awards will be given in each of the following categories, as well as up to three overall Honorable Mentions:

- **Concept and Content** - This award will be presented to the student whose artwork reflects sophisticated integration and interpretation of the theme, relevance to social and artistic dialogue, as well as high quality mastery of the selected medium.
- **Aesthetics and Design** - This award will be presented to the student whose artwork reflects a sophisticated understanding of composition and principles of design in art-making.

Award certificates will be delivered to teachers for distribution to students. The recipient of the Overall Excellence award will be honored at the Academic Decathlon Awards.

### Deadlines and Instructions

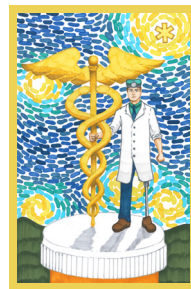
1. All entries must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. **Friday, November 20, 2020.**
2. A hard copy 11" x 17" of the artwork must be submitted.
3. Please attach to each entry two copies of the attached Student Information Sheet.
4. All submitted artwork will be reviewed and juried for the selection of awards.
5. All artwork must be submitted to:

Craig Irish  
Sacramento County Office of Education  
Academic Decathlon Office

**Shipping address (UPS or FedEx):**  
10150 Missile Way, Mather, CA 95655

**Physical address:**  
10474 Mather Boulevard, Mather, CA 95655

### PAST WINNERS



Health & Wellness



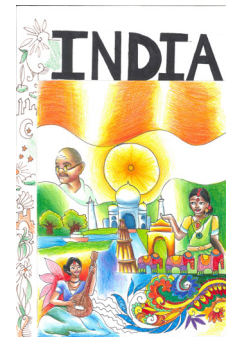
World War II



Great Depression



Africa



India



World War I

### Questions? Contact:

Craig Irish, Academic Decathlon Coordinator  
Sacramento County Office of Education  
(916) 228-2660 or cirish@scoe.net



[www.scoe.net/ad](http://www.scoe.net/ad)

