

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

Collectible Conservation Stamp

ART SHOW



FEATURING THE TIGER SALAMANDER

RULES

ELIGIBILITY

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department encourages all Wyoming K-12 students to participate and learn more about Wyoming wildlife through the Student Conservation Stamp Art Competition. Art teachers are encouraged to submit their students' artwork, but students may submit artwork individually. Any Wyoming public school art teacher who submits artwork for a winning artist will receive a cash prize along with the artist. Entry forms and artist's data sheet must be completed and legible for all artwork submitted.

SUBJECT MATTER

All artwork must feature the Western tiger salamander (*Ambystoma mavortium*). Judges are instructed to ensure any habitat illustrated depicts the species in its natural habitat and that the habitat is found in Wyoming. Artwork will be judged on the biological accuracy of how the species is presented, artistic composition, technical skill and overall artistry. For this year's species, the biological judge will be looking at the information listed below.

ABOUT THE SPECIES

SIZE/FEATURES

Adults have a long body, 4 stout legs, a broad rounded head with a large mouth, 2 protruding eyes, and a tail that makes up approximately 40% of their total body length. Salamander skin is smooth, moist, and lacks scales. Eleven to fourteen costal grooves (rib-like indentations) are very apparent along the sides of this species. Dorsal skin color can be black, dark olive, or gray with irregular yellow, cream, or pale olive blotches. Sometimes pale blotches can be so large as to make it look like an individual has a pale base color with just a few dark irregular stripes. Different subspecies of Western Tiger Salamander can vary significantly in the amount and type of blotch patterns, ranging from stripes to irregular spots.

HABITAT

Western tiger salamanders are found throughout Wyoming below elevations of 10,000 feet. They are also widely distributed across western North America.

Western tiger salamanders need both aquatic and terrestrial habitat types to carry out their life cycle. They live in most terrestrial habitat types in Wyoming, as long as they have nearby aquatic habitats for breeding. As eggs and larvae, salamanders live in a variety of water bodies with still or slow-moving water, including beaver ponds, alpine kettles, wetlands, and even human-made structures like water troughs and sewage ponds. Juveniles and adults spend much of their time on land, but they tend to stay in moist areas like rodent burrows or leaf litter to avoid drying out. Western Tiger Salamanders are capable of crossing long distances of harsh, unsuitable habitat (dry land, snow, etc.) to reach breeding ponds in early spring.

FOOD

Western tiger salamanders are opportunistic and will eat a variety of foods, depending on what is available. Larvae feed on aquatic invertebrates, amphibian eggs and larvae, snails, and leeches. Adults eat a variety of invertebrates, and have been known to eat small mammals or reptiles.

OTHER

This is the only salamander found in Wyoming!

They can also migrate!



ORIGINAL ARTWORK

The artwork must be the artist's original creation. Any artwork recognized as a copy will be ineligible for a prize. It is left to the conscience of the artist whether the work submitted is their own work, or the creative inspiration of someone else.

MEDIUM

Artwork may be multi-color or black and white. It must consist of a two dimensional design, meaning it must be some form of ink, pencil or paint. Sculptures or other three dimensional submissions will not be accepted.

FORMAT

Artwork should be submitted on paper in a **horizontal, landscape-orientation format**. Print out the artist's data sheet on a piece of 8.5x11 inch paper and complete your artwork on the back side of the artist's data sheet. The final artwork should be 8.5 inches in height by 11 inches in width, drawn in a horizontal format.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

To enter, complete the online entry form and attach a digital copy of the artwork. Submissions can be scanned or photographed and sent through the submission form.

To fill out the submission form, visit: <https://bit.ly/StudentArtSubmissionForm>

Teachers may mail entries for the students of their class to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Headquarters or submit entries digitally. Mailed entries should be sent to:

**Student Conservation Stamp Competition
Comms/Ed Division - Wy Game and Fish
5400 Bishop Blvd. Cheyenne, Wy 82006-0001**

Artwork mailed to Game and Fish headquarters will not be returned to youth artists. Any artist who wishes to keep the original artwork should submit a copy of the artwork using the online submission form. All artists must sign the data sheet to be eligible, but should not sign their artwork. This is to ensure confidentiality during judging.

Students may submit up to two entries. Only the highest placing entry from each individual artist will be recognized and receive a monetary award.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES

Game and Fish begins accepting entries on Sept. 1, 2026. Entries must be received by 5 p.m. on April 9, 2027.

DATE AND LOCATION OF JUDGING

An awards ceremony will be held virtually on Facebook on April 23, 2027. Judging will happen earlier the week of April 12, 2027.

JUDGING

All final entries will be displayed for judges digitally. The only visible identification mark on each entry during judging will be the number assigned to the entry by the competition coordinator or his/her designated representative. Signatures will be concealed during judging. Artists receiving first through third place will be awarded. A panel of judges from the arts, printing and biology professions will evaluate the entries. Entries will be judged on the following:

- How well the artwork represents the species (including ecological correctness of any habitat - see specifics in "Subject Matter").
- Artistic composition.
- Technical skill.

COMPENSATION

Game and Fish will award first through third place in each grade level group. The groups are as follows:

- Kindergarten - 2nd grade
- 3rd-5th grade
- 6th-8th grade
- 9th-12th grade

The first-place winning artist will receive a \$150 payment; second place \$100; third place \$50; If the winning artwork is submitted by a Wyoming public school art teacher, then the teacher will receive a matching award to purchase art supplies for their classroom.

ARTIST DATA SHEET

Artist's Name: _____

Title of Artwork: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Grade Level: _____

Teacher: _____

School: _____

Parent's Phone Number: _____

Parent's Email: _____

Artist's Home Address

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

If my artwork is selected for an award, I'd like payment sent to: ☐ Home Address ☐ School Address

I grant the Wyoming Game and Fish Department permission to use my first name, first initial of my last name, school name and a copy of my artwork in connection with the contest and for any other related reason or purpose.

Artist's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____