

South Texas Children's Arts Festival Guidelines – 2023-24

1. Eligibility: Children ages 5-12 who reside or attend school in the Rio Grande Valley or the San Antonio area (25-mile radius around San Antonio) may enter the South Texas Children's Arts Festival by answering and illustrating one or more of three festival questions about the Gospel of John. There is no entry fee. **(Schools & Churches: please be sure to read the section at the bottom of the next page.)** Only the first name, initial of the last name and age of each semi-finalist and finalist will be published online, except grand prize winners. Pictures and first and last names of winners will be used in publicity and if selected for art published in *Kids Color Me Bible Gospel of John*. Artwork and writing may appear in other places such as, but not limited to, the *Kids Talk About God* syndicated newspaper column, online art gallery, etc.
2. Prizes: The deadline for entering is January 31, 2024. Two grand prizes will be awarded. A school cannot have more than one winner per year. Previous grand-prize winners cannot win again, nor can their siblings win. The winners and immediate families, up to five people per family, will receive a vacation at a resort on South Padre Island. (6 nights, 7 days.) The resorts are **Isla Grand Beach Resort** and **Holiday Inn Beach Resort South Padre Island**. Festival organizers plan to award one vacation to a younger child (PreK thru 3rd grade, no younger than 5) and one vacation to an older child (4th thru 6th grades, no older than 12). If enough entries are received from kids in San Antonio, one winner will be from the Rio Grande Valley and the other from the San Antonio area. If a child or parent/guardian is unable to accept the prize in its entirety during the time allotted for the prize, the prize will be awarded to another child. A school cannot have more than one winner in a calendar year.
3. Publicity: Kids Talk About God (KTAG) wants to generate goodwill for the sponsors who help make this arts festival possible. Winners and their families are expected to work with Kids Talk About God in this effort. The family of a child who wins a vacation package will be asked to take pictures and write about the vacation. A video of the surprise visit to announce winners and their vacations will be produced and displayed on the Internet and possibly on TV stations.
4. Liability: KTAG will do its best to present each prize as sponsors represent it to us. KTAG must rely on promises in writing from SPI resort owners and managers. If an SPI resort fails to provide a promised prize as agreed to in writing, KTAG will exclude that resort from any further participation in its arts festivals. If this unfortunate event occurs, the prize recipient agrees to hold KTAG and the South Texas Children's Arts Festival harmless from any damages and legal action. Furthermore, prize winners and their families agree to hold KTAG, the South Texas Children's Arts Festival, and sponsors harmless from injury resulting from vacations or any activities associated with prizes received through the festival.
5. Rights: All artwork and writing submitted for the festival will be considered the property of Carey & Lisa Kinsolving and Kids Talk About God. Artwork and writing will not be returned.
6. Mailing Address & Deadline: The South Texas Children's Arts Festival deadline is January 31, 2024. All mailed entries must be postmarked on or before January 31, 2024. Sign up for the Festival Update newsletter at www.KidsTalkAboutGod.org/stx. Please mail all art and writing entries to Kids Talk About God, 605 N. McColl Circle, McAllen, TX 78501. Schools in the RGV that participate may drop off the art or arrange to have it picked up from the school.
7. Writing: All writing entries must be submitted in English. Children ages 5-6 may speak their answers to someone who can write them. Please don't coach. From younger children, we're looking for childlike answers, not necessarily correct answers. Writing is important because the artwork will be illustrative of a child's written answer. Please write the full name of the child and age on the front of all written answers. If the entry is through a school or church, please write the school/church name. Each written answer should be on a separate sheet of paper along with the illustrative artwork. Please paper-clip the writing and artwork that belong to the same question together. **No staples please.** If a child answers and illustrates additional festival questions, **one signed entry form for all entries is sufficient as long as all of that child's**

work is paper-clipped together with the entry form on top. Schools participating in the arts festival do not need parents to sign entry forms. KTAG will notify the school when and if it needs signed entry forms for arts festival finalists. For second through sixth grades, place a zero after the grade to determine the minimum number of words to be written. For example, second graders would write at least 20 words. The maximum number of words per answer is 100.

8. Art: All art must be submitted on white **8.5" X 11"** paper. Colored markers and thick paper are preferred. Other media such as pastels, watercolor and other types of paint can be used. **Please do not use colored pencils or crayons except as accents.** In most cases, big, bold images work better than smaller images. Any text that is part of the artwork should be printed clearly and large enough to read easily. **Please have the children color in the background. Do not leave it white.** On the back of each art entry, please print in pencil the question being illustrated, child's name, age, grade and school (if entry is through their school).

**9. Festival Questions (Two sets for two age groups):
Kindergarten through third grades festival questions (beginning at age 5):**

1. How does the Holy Spirit help Christians? (John 16:12-15)
2. How does Jesus turn our sorrow into joy? (John 16:16-22)
3. What does it mean to pray in the name of Jesus? (John 16:23-33)

Fourth through sixth grades festival questions (must be under 13 years old):

1. How did God the Father glorify Jesus? (John 17:1-5)
2. How can God's Word make Christians different from other people? (John 17:6-19)
3. How can Christians be unified as Jesus is with his Father? (John 17:20-26)

Special Information for Participating Christian Schools & Churches

We strongly recommend that participating schools and churches have all students ages 5-12 answer and illustrate **all three** of the current festival questions for their age group.

Please submit ALL the entries to us. Do not try to pick out the best ones. For schools, if the cost of shipping entries to us is too great, call us if you're in the Rio Grande Valley. We can probably pick them up. Phone: 956-433-1300. Outside the Valley, we can reimburse you for the cost to ship entries to us by UPS ground.

Each student's written answer should have the question they're answering written at the top of the page, along with their name, age, grade and school. The question illustrated by the student's artwork should be written on the back of the art in pencil, along with the student's name, age, grade and school.

Also, please be sure to read the art guidelines. All artwork should be done on 8 ½" x 11" paper. If the paper larger than that, we will have to physically trim off part of the artwork in order to get a good scan. Also, please do not submit art with objects (glitter, beads, etc.) glued on, which is creative and pretty, but doesn't scan well. We want each child's work to look its best online and in print. **We discourage the use of pencils and crayons.** These art media don't show up as well online as colored markers and paint do.

www.KidsTalkAboutGod.org/stx
South Texas Children's Arts Festival – 2023-24 School Year
Official Entry Form to Win a South Padre Island Beach Family Vacation at
Isla Grand Beach Resort SPI *OR* Holiday Inn Beach Resort South Padre Island
Deadline: January 31, 2024

Please print clearly or type. Fill out this form completely. (Permission granted to copy this form.)
Please place this signed form on top of all entries from a child and secure with a paperclip.

Attention Participating Schools: If securing parental signatures is too cumbersome, you may wait to secure signatures only from parents whose children are selected for the finals.

Child's Name.....Age.....

Parent/Guardian Name.....Phone.....

Parent/Guardian Email (required).....

Mailing Address.....

City/State/Zip.....

Organization (if entry is submitted through a church, school, Bible Club, etc.).....

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Sending Instructions:

- 1) An arts festival entry consists of one written answer to a question (chosen from three festival questions) and illustrative art. Please keep them together by paper clip. No staples.
- 2) Student's name, age, grade, school and contact information should be written in pencil on the back of each art piece and on the front of each written answer.
- 3) Each group of entries of writing and art should be accompanied by this official entry form signed (below) by the child and parent/guardian. Please paper-clip to top of entries.
- 4) If not working through a school or church, please mail signed entry form, art and writing to: Kids Talk About God, 605 N. McColl Circle, McAllen, TX 78501.

Register to receive free, festival updates by email at **www.KidsTalkAboutGod.org/stx**.

I affirm that this is my own original work. I did not trace, copy or imitate another artist's work. I give Carey Kinsolving, the South Texas Children's Arts Festival chairman, permission to use my writing and art in all forms of media.

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Student Signature

I, the undersigned parent/guardian, assign to Carey Kinsolving and his assignees, all rights to publish my child's writing and art submitted to the South Texas Children's Arts Festival. I grant to Carey Kinsolving the use of my child's name and the right to edit my child's writing and art. I affirm that my child's art is completely original. I have read and agree with festival guidelines at www.KidsTalkAboutGod.org/stx.

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Parent/Guardian Signature

Attention Participating Schools: If securing parental signatures is too cumbersome, you may wait and secure signatures only from parents whose children are selected for the finals. You will be notified as to which, if any, of your students make it into the finals.

Checklist

Writing

- Child's full name, age, grade & school
- Parent/guardian name and contact info
- Indicate which question the child is answering
- Child's written answer
- One question/answer per sheet of paper
- From second through sixth grades, put zero after grade to determine minimum number of words for each answer. K-1st graders can speak their answers to someone who can write it down for them (no coaching, please).
- Children may answer and illustrate all three questions.

Art

- 8.5" x 11" white paper
- Big, bold images done with colored markers or paint
- Child's full name, age, grade & school (on back)
- Parent/guardian name and contact info (on back)
- Indicate which question the child is illustrating (on back)

Entry Form

- Complete information (contact info is VERY important)
- Signatures
- Paperclip completed entry form to all the art and writing from that child.
- **SCHOOLS: If it's too much trouble to get parents of all students to sign release forms, we can request signed release forms from finalists when they are chosen.**

Sending

- Include an entry form with each group of entries from each child. A child may answer and illustrate up to three questions in their age group.
- Mail no later than 1/31/2024 to Kids Talk About God, 605 N. McColl Circle, McAllen TX 78501 or return to your school of church, if you are participating as an organization.