DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

# Delaware Waterfowl and Trout Stamp Program

## 2027 Stamp Art Contest

## Artist Agreement and Contest Entry Form

**Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Fish and Wildlife**

**IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ:** The 2027 Contest Agreement includes **new and updated requirements.** Please read the **entire agreement carefully** before submitting your entry.

Please be advised that artwork entries **must be postmarked on or before 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, July 30, 2027.** Artwork judging will occur during the week of August 18, 2027 when judges will be scheduled to review the artwork. Artists who submit entries will be notified once judging dates are finalized, which is pending judge availability and confirmed judging appointments. It is important to note that artwork may not be shipped back to artists until 90 days after judging is completed.

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control ("DNREC") invites artists to submit original artwork entries for the annual Delaware Waterfowl and Trout Stamp Program Stamp Art Contest.

The Delaware Waterfowl Stamp Program began in 1980, in partnership with Delaware Ducks Unlimited, to raise funds for waterfowl conservation. Hunters and stamp collectors purchase waterfowl stamps and prints and the funds generated are used to restore and improve wetland habitat vital for migratory waterfowl.

Delaware's Freshwater Trout Program began in 1955 to raise funds for stocking rainbow, brown and brook trout in selected streams and ponds in the state. Anglers fishing for trout purchase a Delaware Trout Stamp and funds generated are used to support trout stocking efforts.

## I. How to Enter

Read this 2027 Stamp Art Contest Artist Agreement and Contest Entry Form and submit one completed and signed Contest Entry Form with each artwork entry postmarked by the contest deadline.

## II. Artist Eligibility

1. All U.S. citizens, who are at least 18 years of age by January 1, 2027, are eligible to participate notwithstanding ineligibility criteria provided herein.
2. Any person who has won Best in Show in Delaware's Waterfowl Stamp Art Contest held the preceding year will be ineligible to submit an entry in Delaware's current year Waterfowl Stamp Art Contest.
3. Any person who has won Best in Show in Delaware's Trout Stamp Art Contest held the preceding year will be ineligible to submit an entry in Delaware's current year Trout Stamp Art Contest.
4. Members of the contest judging panel and their immediate relatives are ineligible.

## III. Official Rules – Waterfowl Stamp Art Contest

1. The artwork selected during the contest held in 2027 will be featured on the Delaware Waterfowl Stamp issued for the July 1, 2028 to June 30, 2029 hunting year. Artwork entries for the contest to be held in 2027 must depict a **Canvasback duck on open water** on an archival surface. The

scene shall depict habitat typical of Delaware. The background may also include any other related subjects (e.g., duck boats, blinds, dogs, decoys, nest boxes); however, the waterfowl subject must be the focal point of the artwork.

2. The Best in Show original winning entry and all reproduction rights of the artwork will become the exclusive property of the State of Delaware, including DNREC. In exchange for those rights, DNREC agrees to provide to the winning artist a cash award of $4,500 within sixty (60) days of the selection of the winning entry. The winning artist will also receive 50 artist proofs of the limited-edition print series and up to 50 stamps.
3. The lithographic print series will consist of a maximum of 150 limited-edition prints, 50 artist proof numbered prints and 100 numbered prints. The winning artist agrees to sign and number 150 limited-edition prints consisting of 50 artist-proof prints and 100 additional prints. DNREC shall issue no further editions of the lithographic prints other than those mentioned in this clause without the expressed written consent of the winning artist.
4. The artist retains all other rights to the remarquing of the limited-edition prints and artist-proof prints in whatever medium the artist desires and includes the right to establish and collect a fee for the remarquing service.
5. DNREC retains all rights to the original Best in Show artwork, including, but not limited to, the right to reproduce the winning artwork on the face of the Delaware Waterfowl Stamp, on stamp program promotional items, on advertisements promoting the availability of stamps, on limited and special edition prints with reproduction of a facsimile of the art in either full color, half tones, or black-and-white reproduction.

## IV. Official Rules – Trout Stamp Art Contest

1. The artwork selected during the contest held in 2027 will be featured on the Delaware Trout Stamp issued for the January 1, 2028 to December 31, 2028 fishing year. Artwork entries for the contest to be held in 2027 must depict one or more species of trout (i.e., **brown, brook** or **rainbow trout**) in a setting or environment typical of Delaware. The trout subject must be the focal point of the artwork.
2. DNREC retains the right to reproduce the Best in Show winning artwork on the face of the Delaware Trout Stamp, on stamp program promotional items, on advertisements promoting the availability of stamps, including reproduction of the artwork in either full color, half tones, or black-and-white reproduction. The artist agrees that DNREC retains the right to use the image of the winning trout stamp artwork in publications about trout fishing in Delaware, including on the cover of the Delaware Fishing Guide (i.e., fishing regulations booklet), Outdoor Delaware, and on other physical items or digital media promoting trout fishing and the Trout Stamp Program.
3. The Best in Show winning artist will receive a $2,500 cash award within sixty (60) days of the selection of the winning entry. Once the Trout stamps have been printed, up to twenty-five (25) stamps will be issued to the winning artist. The Best in Show original winning entry and all additional reproduction rights not previously retained by the state are maintained by the winning artist.

## V. General Official Rules – Applicable to Waterfowl and Trout Artwork Entries

1. **Deadline for Entry**:
   a. Artwork entries **must be postmarked on or before 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, July 30, 2027**.

b. DNREC shall not accept late or incomplete entries, or entries that have not followed these Official Rules.

c. DNREC reserves the right to adjust any deadline(s) as the result of causes beyond its immediate control. DNREC will take reasonable steps to provide notification of any adjustments made to deadlines.

## 2. Number of Entries:

a. Artists participating in the Waterfowl Stamp Art Contest are limited to one entry.

b. Artists participating in the Trout Stamp Art Contest are limited to two entries.

## 3. Entry Eligibility:

a. Entries that have been published or won Best in Show/First Place in a competition for any federal or state stamp program are ineligible and will be rejected or disqualified.

b. The entry design shall be artist's own original creation, including a composition solely created by the artist. The entry design may not be copied or duplicated from previously published art, including photographs, or from images in any format published on the internet, and shall not violate the intellectual property rights, copyright, or right of property of any third party. DNREC will reject entries that it determines, in its sole discretion, violate these conditions and / or contain copyrighted materials.

c. Entry designs that have been published elsewhere, for example in newspapers, magazines and online, are not eligible and will be rejected or disqualified. The exception is artwork, other than Best in Show/First Place, published in prior years as part of media or DNREC coverage of Delaware Stamp Artwork Contest.

d. Photographs, computer-generated art, art produced from a computer printer, or other computer/mechanical output device – air brush method excepted – are not eligible as entries and will be rejected.

e. Scroll work, logos, lettering, initials, or signatures shall not appear in or on the entry design and will be rejected.

f. Entry designs shall not contain inappropriate, indecent, or obscene content. DNREC has sole discretion in determining whether any entry contains inappropriate, indecent, or obscene content. Entries determined by DNREC to contain inappropriate, indecent, or obscene content shall be rejected by DNREC.

## 4. Entry Requirements:

a. The entry design must be a horizontal drawing or painting measuring 8 ¾ inches x 12 inches on an archival surface.

b. Each entry must be matted with a single white mat measuring 12 inches x 15 inches.

c. Each entry must be protected by a **loose, non-adhering cover made of acetate, cellophane, or another suitable material that will not stick to or damage the artwork**. Plastic wrap/Saran wrap, adhesive-backed or self-sealing sleeves, and any other covering that may adhere to the artwork are not permitted.

The covering **must not be taped, glued, sealed, or otherwise secured to or around the artwork or matting**. No adhesives of any kind may come into contact with the artwork or matting. All coverings will be removed for display and judging. Entries with coverings that cannot be safely removed may be deemed ineligible for judging. **These requirements are intended to ensure your artwork is not damaged during shipping and the contest.**

d. When matted and ready for display (i.e., protective covering removed) entries must be no more than 7/16 inches in thickness and weigh no more than 20 ounces (1 ¼ pounds).

e. Entries must not be framed or under glass.

f. There is no restriction on the medium or substrate for entries. DNREC will not be responsible for damage or deterioration of pastels, or other sensitive or unstable materials used.

g. Entries must not be signed or initialed anywhere on the artwork.

h. Entries must include an **information card on the back of the entry** and must list the artist's phone number, address, name of the species depicted and medium used. **Do not put the artist's name on the information card**. **Please do not attach the signed Artist Agreement to the back of the painting or entry.**

i. Entries must include a brief artist biography that describes, for example, where the artist is from, how many years the artist has been painting, whether the artist has won other artwork contests before, and what inspires the artist. Winning artists will also be asked to submit a high-resolution photograph of themselves to accompany the artist biography.

## 5. Entry Shipping and Handling:

a. The winning entries, except Best in Show, will be returned to the submitting artists within 90 days following the contest provided that artists adhere to shipping requirements herein.

b. Entries must be shipped in sturdy reusable containers. The shipping container will be re-used by DNREC to return artwork to the artist, as applicable.

c. Each entry must include an artist signed copy of the **2027 Stamp Art Contest Entry Form not to be attached to the entry**.

d. A prepaid shipping label MUST be included and should include prepaid shipping insurance. FedEx or UPS is recommended. **Postage stamps will NOT be accepted as a form of return postage.**

**If the required prepaid return shipping label is not included the entry will not be returned unless picked up, in person by appointment, within 90 days of the contest date. Any artwork not picked up within 90 days becomes property of DNREC.**

e. Artists are advised not to use post office box addresses for returning purposes.

f. Entries returned to DNREC as undeliverable for any reason will be held for 90 days upon return, after which time DNREC shall not be held responsible for the condition or disposal of the artwork.

g. Artists are advised to obtain Property Insurance for their respective entries. DNREC will not insure entries received. DNREC will make every effort to protect entries from damage or theft; however, DNREC shall be held harmless for loss or damage to entries, including, but not limited to, loss or damage during shipment.

## 6. Judging and Selection of Winning Entries:

a. The judging panel will consist of five impartial members from various categories of experience or expertise such as, but not limited to, a member of a partner organization (Ducks Unlimited or White Clay Fly Fishers Club), a member of the DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife's Advisory Council on Wildlife & Freshwater Fish, an angler, a hunter, an art instructor, a stamp or print collector, or a biologist.

b. Artists are strongly encouraged to apply the judging criteria in the development of their submitted artwork. Entries will be judged on the following criteria:

i. Suitability for reproduction as a stamp
ii. Habitat depiction
iii. Anatomical accuracy

iv. Artistic composition to include spatial balance, lighting, and harmony of subject and background

c. Judges are instructed to look for scenes depicting trout and waterfowl in their natural habitat typical of Delaware. The selected focal species must be the dominant feature in the design. This means it should be noticeably larger than any other elements you wish to include such as decoys, boats and scenery.

d. The identity of the artist will be kept confidential and not disclosed during the judging process. All entries will be assigned a number based on the date of the entry. The only visible identification mark on each entry will be the assigned number.

e. DNREC will announce the names of the Best in Show winners following the completion of judging.

f. In the event a disqualification should occur, the artwork selected for 2nd place during judging shall then be declared the winner as Best in Show and shall be reproduced for the Delaware Waterfowl Stamp or Delaware Trout Stamp, waterfowl limited-edition prints, and/or promotional items, and said artist will receive monetary and other awards given for Best in Show.

g. DNREC has sole discretion over the selection of winning entries. By entering this contest, artists waive any right they have to dispute or otherwise challenge DNREC's selection of the winning entries.

### 7. Exhibition of Artwork Entries:

a. Artwork entries may be exhibited at a public and/or virtual location designated by DNREC following the contest. All artists agree to loan to DNREC artwork entries and agree that said artwork may be displayed as works of art in a public building at the discretion of the custodians of the building and that the loaning of submitted artwork shall be uncompensated and shall be with the specific understanding that DNREC does not undertake to insure such works of art in any way whatsoever and does not insure itself or its agents against possible negligence in the damaging of such works of art. There will not be insurance available to compensate the owner for loss or damage to the submitted artwork entries in the event of damage or destruction or to protect the governmental agencies or their agents against liability in the event of accidental or negligent damaging of said terms. The artist acknowledges possible risks of loss as noted above and recognizes that they are foreclosing any right they may have to recover for damages to the items listed above under certain circumstances.

b. DNREC reserves the right to photograph and/or video record all entries for purposes of documentation, promotion, education, and exhibition.

## VI. General Provisions:

1. DNREC retains the right to administratively change any of the rules contained in this document if a demonstrated need can be shown. Artists participating in the contest shall comply with these Official Rules and will make no monetary or other claim against DNREC or the State of Delaware for the use of any content provided to DNREC in connection with participation in this contest.
2. DNREC is an Agency of the State of Delaware subject to Delaware's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA; 29 Del. C. 10001 et seq). Participants are advised that any information provided to DNREC in conjunction with this contest may be deemed a public record under FOIA.
3. There shall be no Third-Party Rights associated with this agreement and / or participation in the contest. This agreement affects the rights, obligations, and duties of the contest artists and DNREC only. Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, nothing in this agreement is intended to, nor shall it be interpreted or construed in a manner which shall: (a) grant any third

party the right to enforce any of the terms, rights, or obligations set forth herein; (b) confer any substantive or procedural rights or privileges to any third party in relation to or arising out of any collateral civil or criminal legal proceeding; or (c) waive or otherwise affect the sovereignty of the State of Delaware or the application of 10 Del. C. § 4001, et seq. to any civil proceeding involving any officer, employee, or agent of the State of Delaware.

4. These Terms shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Delaware. Any legal action brought by either party to enforce any provision of this agreement shall be brought in an appropriate Delaware State Court.

5. Refusal of any artist to sign this agreement in its entirety or any artist who challenges the Official Rules or regulations concerning release of rights or otherwise takes action that would delay the reproduction of the art as the Delaware Waterfowl Stamp or Delaware Trout Stamp and/or prints shall be grounds for that art being disqualified. Once disqualified, the artist forfeits right to any monetary or other award and use of the art for the Delaware Waterfowl Stamp or Delaware Trout Stamp or waterfowl limited-edition prints and/or promotional items.

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

# Delaware Waterfowl and Trout Stamp Program

## 2027 Stamp Art Contest Entry Form

**Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Fish and Wildlife**

**I have read and agree to all Official Rules and Terms of the 2027 Stamp Art Contest Artist Agreement and attest that the submitted artwork is my own creation.**

Please complete the entry form below and return a signed copy of this form for **EACH** entry submitted and postmarked **on or before 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, July 30, 2027.**

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**I am submitting an entry for (select one):**

❑ **Waterfowl Stamp Art Contest** ❑ **Trout Stamp Art Contest**

**Artist's Name** (please print)**:** _____

**Address:** _____

**Phone:** _____

**Email:** _____

**Species Depicted:** _____

**Medium Used:** _____

**Artist's Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

**Each entry should be delivered or mailed to:**

DNREC Division of Fish and Wildlife
Recreational Licensing Program
89 Kings Highway
Dover, DE 19901
ATTN: Trisha Virdin

**For questions:**
Call (302) 739-9918
or
Email: dfwreclic@delaware.gov

**Checklist**

**Did you remember to:**

- ❑ Affix **information card** to the back of your entry
- ❑ Sign contest agreement **for each entry but DO NOT affix to the back of the artwork.**
- ❑ Include return prepaid return shipping label. **Postage stamps will NOT be accepted**
- ❑ Include artist biography
- ❑ Review **the entire Contest Agreement** and ensure all entry requirements have been met
- ❑ Artwork must be postmarked **on or before 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on July 30, 2027**