

# WATER KEEPS LIFE FLOWING: ART CONTEST

Artwork by Harlee N.,  
East Elementary - Alton, IL,  
2024 Contest Winner



## DEAR TEACHER OR PARENT

Thank you for all you do to educate our young leaders. We hope you will partner with Illinois American Water on our “Water Keeps Life Flowing” Art Contest!

Now more than ever, it is important to educate our next generation about our water systems. The Illinois American Water team plays a critical role in students’ daily lives by providing water service that supports handwashing, laundry, meals, and dishwashing, as well as many essential jobs like firefighting, healthcare, and so much more.

Sincerely,  
Marisa Markowski  
External Communications  
Illinois American Water

## Contest Rules and Guidelines

### ELIGIBILITY

The contest is open to third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students in schools served by Illinois American Water. The contest can serve as a classroom project, and individual submissions from students who live within the company’s service territory are also welcomed.

### THEME

Entries should reflect positive messages about how water keeps your life flowing. Remind students how critical water is to daily life. We need water to grow gardens and manufacture products. We also need water to fight fires and for public health.

### ARTWORK

All artwork must be the student’s original work. Distribute the enclosed flyer to your students. Ask them to draw a picture within the box and write one sentence BELOW the artwork, which describes why our water systems are important and/or what reliable, safe water service means to them. Acceptable media are paint (watercolors or oil), colored pencils (preferred), markers or pastels.

### ENTRY FORM

Please ensure the teacher’s full name and student’s full name are clearly written on the flyer but not within the artwork area. Do not attach entry forms with paper clips or staples, which can damage the artwork.

### DEADLINE TO APPLY

All entries must be postmarked by Friday, **October 24, 2025**. We are not responsible for entries that are late or lost in the mail. Please mail to: Marisa Markowski, Illinois American Water, 1000 Internationale Parkway, Woodridge, IL 60517

### RIGHTS TO ARTWORK

Without exception, all submissions become property of Illinois American Water. Through submission of artwork, the student, their legal guardian, teacher, and school grant non-exclusive reproduction and publication rights to the works submitted, which will not be returned. The artwork and identifying information like name, school, etc. may be used on future Illinois American Water marketing materials and other communications.

### MAILING

Entries must be mailed flat or rolled in a tube – no folding, please! If mailing flat, please be sure to use cardboard or a similar material to protect the artwork.

### JUDGING

The judges will consider creative vision, artistic talent, and understanding of water systems. Winners will be announced in November. Illinois American Water reserves the right to not award a winner if no entry merits such designation. Past winning artwork can be found on our @ilamwater Facebook page.

### PRIZES

Up to ten winners will earn a prize pack, valuing roughly \$100, to share with their classroom. Available prize packs include: Creative Kids – colored pencils, markers, crayons; Classroom Essentials – books, magnetic tiles, Play-Doh, Guess in 10 Animal Planet; Classroom Party – Uno Junior, 30 fidget toy key chains, Would You Rather? School & Classroom Edition. Subject to change based on product availability.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Marisa Markowski at [Marisa.Markowski@amwater.com](mailto:Marisa.Markowski@amwater.com) or visit our online learning center at: [illinoisamwater.com](http://illinoisamwater.com).

# WATER KEEPS LIFE FLOWING

## Art Contest for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders

Water keeps life flowing by hydrating all living creatures. In addition to drinking it, we also use it to grow plants, clean, put out fires, create items that we use every day and much more.

**Please draw a picture and write one sentence about how water keeps your life flowing.**

The winner's drawing and message will be shared with customers on Illinois American Water's Facebook page and will also be featured in future communications.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher Email/Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class:** \_\_\_\_\_ **School:** \_\_\_\_\_



(Write your sentence here)

**The winners will earn a prize pack, valuing roughly \$100, to share with their classroom. Have fun and good luck!**

