

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS for the 2026 MAINE MIGRATORY WATERFOWL STAMP ART CONTEST



The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is conducting a competition to select a design for the 2026 Maine Migratory Waterfowl Hunting Stamp.

Read all rules carefully!

Any entry which fails to comply with all of the requirements of this competition may be disqualified.

Eligibility:

- Maine residents, 18 years of age or older, who have been domiciled in this state during the three (3) months immediately preceding the entry deadline for the contest, can submit one entry per contestant.
- The artist affirms that their entry is of their own creation, has not previously won another stamp contest (federal, state, or private), and the original design is neither copied nor duplicated from previously published art, including paintings/drawings in any medium; from published photographs; or from any images, of any kind, previously published on the internet. We will be checking to be sure your piece is not duplicated.*
- Employees of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife are not eligible to enter.

***Plagiarism** is the act of copying and claiming another person's work as your own, which is unethical and potentially illegal. Taking dominant elements from an original piece and applying them to your own work, then claiming the entire work as yours is a form of plagiarism, even if some elements are altered, or a different background is added. You can get inspiration from images on the internet, but you cannot copy exactly what you see, you must submit something of your own creation.

Important Dates and Deadlines:

- Entries can be submitted in person, or by mail, beginning Monday, March 2, 2026. All entries must be received at the Department's main office in Augusta by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20, 2026.
- Judging will take place on the first day of the State of Maine Sportsman's Show, Friday, March 27, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., at the Augusta Civic Center.
- All entries will potentially be on display for the duration of the Sportsman's Show in 2026. Entries can be picked up at the Department's main office, by appointment only, starting Wednesday, April 6, 2025. If your painting is not picked up by the end of May 2026, it will be mailed back to the address on the entry form.

After the contest:

- There will be a period of fifteen (15) days immediately following the contest judging during which any artist or photographer may make a plagiarism claim against the winning design. In the event any such claim is upheld by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the first runner-up shall be declared the winning design, subject itself to a 15-day plagiarism claim period.
- The winning design, as prepared by the artist, will be retained by the Department until the production of the Waterfowl Hunting Stamp has been completed. The Department shall retain exclusive copyright of said design for the purpose of stamps only. Copies and reproduction of said stamps may be published and distributed by the Department to others for copying, and publishing for educational and informational purposes. The Department shall also retain the right to use the winning image in publications, on the internet, and other media opportunities as appropriate.**

*****All other copyright other than described in this paragraph, shall be retained by the artist for their disposition.***

- If the winning artist decides to reproduce the original image in the form of prints, they agree to provide to the Department, at no cost, twenty-five (25) signed and numbered prints. Said prints must be numbered as Conservation Edition (CE) #1/25 to 25/25. Numbering to be just below and to the left side of image, and signed just below and to the right side of image. Signature and number to be done in pencil.

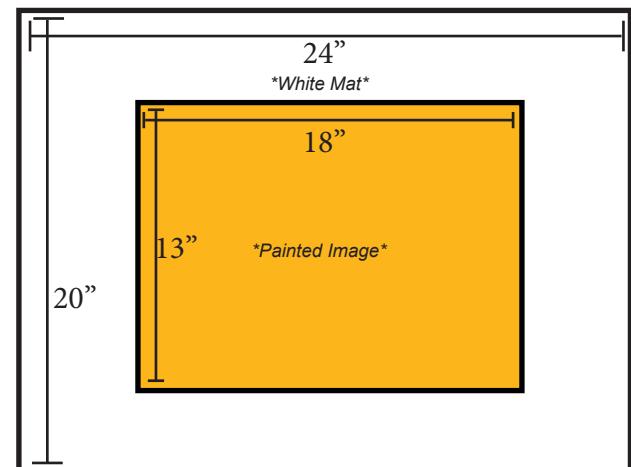


The winning artists:

- First place winner may be required to make minor changes to their design.
- First place winner will be required to provide their signature on stamps at no cost to the Department.
- First place winner will be ineligible to compete in the next consecutive contest, but is asked to be a judge in the next consecutive contest, if available to do so.
- First place winner will retain ownership of the winning entry and will receive an award of \$1,000 and a sheet of 10 stamps of their design.
- Second place will receive an award of \$300, third place will receive an award of \$100, and two Honorable Mentions will receive a gift item from the Department.
- People's Choice winner will receive a gift item from the Department.

Specifications:

- The 2026 Maine "duck stamp" species will be the **Green-Winged Teal**. One or more waterfowl of the chosen species must appear **dominantly** in the design and must be portrayed as alive in their natural habitat.
- Background detail included in the design must be minimal, accurate, and representative of the state of Maine.
- No scroll work, lettering, bird band numbers, accent borders, signature, or initials may appear on the front, or back, of the painting, mat, or packaging.
- None of the information printed on a finished duck stamp may appear on the painting or mat.
- The design is to be two-dimensional, in full color, and in the medium (or combination) of the artist's choosing; except that no photographic process, digital art, metallic paints, iridescent paints, or fluorescent paints may be used in the finished design. All art must be dry at the time of submission.
- Designs will be judged on originality, artistic composition, anatomical accuracy, and suitability for reproduction as a stamp.
- All entries must be uniform in style. The painted image must be exactly 13 inches vertically by 18 inches horizontally (this is important for stamp production) and centered on top of a **sturdy** surface that is 20 inches vertically and 24 inches horizontally (masonite or foamcore, for example).
- It is required to have a single **bright white mat** which is to be exactly 20 inches vertically by 24 inches horizontally, with a centered open window of exactly 13 inches vertically by 18 inches horizontally. The mat is in addition to the backing, or painted surface, the backing border does not count as a mat. This must be an actual framing mat board, handmade mats from other materials are not acceptable.



Entries must be less than 1/2" thick.

- The painting, mat, and any backing, must all be **firmly**, but not permanently, adhered to each other.
- The painting cannot be framed or under glass. Any protective covering must be lightly attached to facilitate removal while opening and closing packaging multiple times. Please package your artwork in a safe, but **uncomplicated** manner. Too much material, and too much weight make managing your painting difficult.

Reminder: no personal information on your packing unless mailed.

*All contestants are advised that it is their responsibility to obtain adequate **property insurance** for their contest submission. The Department will not insure any entry it receives, and assumes no liability for any damage, loss, or theft of any entry.*

Entries must be received by mail, or delivered in person, to the Department's main office by the deadline:
March 20, 2026, 4:00 p.m.

Please mail, or deliver, entries to:
Duck Stamp Contest
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
353 Water Street
41 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Questions? Contact Kristina at 287-5244 or kristina.r.bedard@maine.gov

Submission MUST be completely covered/packaged in protective **cardboard**, sealed only with **tape**.
Please package your art safely, but in an uncomplicated manner. Oversized and overweight packages with lots of extra packing materials are tough to manage and transport, please be mindful.

The painting cannot be attached to the inside of the package in any way.
Prints cannot be submitted in tubes.

Entry slip MUST be taped to the back of the painting. Do not tape corners of the slip, no double-sided tape.

Package must NOT include any personal information on the outside.

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Clip this entry form and tape **lightly** to the back of your entry
(do not tape corners, and no double-sided tape!)

2026 Maine Migratory Waterfowl Stamp Contest - OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

1. ARTIST INFORMATION:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email: _____

How did you find out about this contest? _____



2. ENTRY INFORMATION: Green-Winged Teal Estimated insurable value: _____ Medium: _____

3. CERTIFICATE:

I, (print name) _____, the undersigned, hereby acknowledge and affirm the following:

A. That the attached and submitted entry artwork is a design of my own, a sole and original creation and interpretation of the natural waterfowl depicted therein and is neither a copy nor duplication of any previously published work or design, copyrighted or otherwise, in any medium or color.

B. That I am a resident of Maine and over the age of 18.

C. That I have read and understand the entry requirements of this contest as provided to me by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and agree to abide thereby and be bound thereto.

Contestant's Signature _____