



OFFICIAL CONTEST RULES

The 2026 Big Boom Poster Contest

Sponsor/Administrator: Great Meadow Foundation (“Great Meadow,” “we,” “us,” “our”)

Event: Great Meadow July 4th Celebration (“Big Boom”)

Location: Great Meadow, The Plains, Virginia

Void where prohibited.

1) Contest Purpose

The Great Meadow July 4th Celebration Poster Contest (“Contest”) invites the community to design the official promotional poster for Great Meadow’s 2026 July 4th Celebration.

Contest objectives include:

- Increasing community engagement and local participation
- Generating excitement for the July 4th Celebration
- Elevating brand visibility through community-created artwork
- Encouraging youth and local artist involvement

The winning design may be used as the official promotional poster and event art for Great Meadow’s 2026 July 4th Celebration and America 250 commemoration (the 250th anniversary of American independence).

2) Eligibility

Who may enter: The Contest is open to all U.S. residents.

- All ages are eligible, subject to the categories below.
- Amateur and professional artists are welcome.
- **Minors (under 18):** A parent or legal guardian must provide consent as required in Section 10.

Categories:

- **Youth Division:** Under 18 years of age at the time of entry
- **Adult Division:** 18 years of age or older at the time of entry

Ineligible participants:

- Great Meadow Foundation employees and their immediate family members
- Great Meadow Foundation Board members and their immediate family members
- Contest judges and their immediate family members*

*For purposes of these rules, “immediate family” means spouse, domestic partner, parent, legal guardian, child, sibling, grandparent, or grandchild, and each of their respective spouses/domestic partners, whether living in the same household or not.

3) Agreement to Rules

By submitting an entry, each entrant (and if a minor, the entrant’s parent/legal guardian) agrees to abide by these Official Rules and Great Meadow’s decisions, which are final and binding in all matters relating to the Contest.

4) Contest Timeline

- **Contest opens:** Monday, March 9, 2026
- **Contest closes:** Sunday, April 5, 2026 at 11:59 pm (local time)
- **Winner announcement by:** Monday, April 13, 2026

Great Meadow will announce winners via Great Meadow’s website, social media, and digital newsletter.

5) How to Enter

Submission method: Entries should be submitted via the **online submission form** on the event website, including upload of the digital file. If you experience technical difficulties using the online form, you may alternatively submit your entry by email to contest@greatmeadow.org with the required entry information (listed below) and your file attached.

Important: Email submissions must be received by the Contest close time to be eligible. If submitting by email, please include “**2026 Poster Contest Entry**” in the subject line.

Required entry information: Each submission must include:

- Artist name
- Age (and category)
- Mailing address
- Email address
- Phone number
- If entrant is a minor: parent/legal guardian name and contact information, and required consent (see Section 10)

Entry limit: Limit one (1) entry per person.

Entry fee: No purchase necessary. Free to enter.

Entries that are incomplete, illegible, corrupted, or not received by the deadline will be void.

6) Poster Theme and Content Requirements

Theme inspiration: Artwork should interpret the themes of Independence Day and America 250, celebrating the spirit of Great Meadow, such as open space, equestrian heritage, community gathering, and the nature and people of Virginia's Piedmont.

Brand consistency and final poster design: The winning artwork will be incorporated in the final poster design. Great Meadow reserves the right to make layout/sizing adjustments and add text and logo(s), as needed, to ensure the final poster design meets production and marketing needs.

7) Design Specifications and File Requirements

File Format: PDF

Resolution: Minimum 300 DPI

Orientation: Vertical (portrait) or horizontal (landscape)

Finished size: 18 x 24 inches

Color: CMYK

File size (max): 15 MB

File naming: lastname_firstname_POSTER.pdf

Great Meadow may request a higher-resolution file or editable source file from finalists or winners to support final design and print production.

8) Originality and Restrictions

Due to copyright laws, all submissions must be original, and Great Meadow reserves the right to disqualify any poster we believe infringes on any copyright.

Prohibited content and materials: Entries must NOT include:

- Copyrighted or proprietary material without proper licensing for Great Meadow's use
- Logos, trademarks, or brand assets owned by third parties
- AI-generated artwork or AI-generated images used in creating the submission (no-AI policy)
- Political candidate messaging or campaign advocacy
- Obscene, pornographic, hateful, discriminatory, violent, threatening, or otherwise inappropriate or offensive content
- Any content that violates law or the rights of others

Responsibility and enforcement: The entrant is responsible for securing all permissions and ensuring compliance with these rules. Great Meadow may disqualify any entry, in its sole discretion, that violates these requirements or is inconsistent with the spirit of the Contest.

9) Judging and Selection

Judging criteria: Entries will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Creativity and originality
- Representation of July 4th / America 250 spirit
- Alignment with Great Meadow brand and event tone
- Visual impact and composition
- Print and reproduction quality

10) Prizes and Recognition

Grand Prize Winner (Overall):

- “Official 2026 Great Meadow July 4th Celebration Poster Artist” designation
- Tailgate ticket to the July 4th Celebration (details provided to winner)
- Recognition on Great Meadow’s website and social media and at the event
- A framed print of the winning poster

Runner-up:

- **VIP parking pass** to the July 4 Celebration (details provided to winner)
- Recognition on Great Meadow’s website and social media and at the event

Prize conditions: Prizes may not be substituted for cash. Great Meadow reserves the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value if a listed prize becomes unavailable.

11) Winner Notification and Requirements

Winners will be contacted using the email address and phone number provided at entry. Failure to respond may result in forfeiture and selection of an alternate winner.

12) Parental/Guardian Consent for Minors

If the entrant is under 18, a parent or legal guardian must:

- Provide the required consent through the submission process
- Represent that they have the legal authority to grant the permissions and releases in these Official Rules on behalf of the minor

Great Meadow may require additional documentation to confirm consent before a minor is awarded a prize or publicly recognized.

13) Intellectual Property and License to Great Meadow

Ownership and assignment (All Entries): By entering the Contest, each entrant (and if a minor, the parent/legal guardian on the minor's behalf) **assigns and transfers to Great Meadow Foundation all right, title, and interest worldwide** in and to the submitted artwork and all associated intellectual property rights, including copyright. Great Meadow will be the sole owner of all submitted artwork and may use, reproduce, modify, publish, and distribute it for any purpose, including commercial purposes, without further permission or compensation. Entrants agree to execute any additional documents reasonably requested by Great Meadow to confirm or record this assignment.

Permitted use: Great Meadow may:

- Reproduce, distribute, display, and publicly perform the artwork
- Use the artwork in print and digital formats, including posters, flyers, social media, website, email marketing, press materials, and event signage
- Use the artwork on event merchandise, including items that may be sold
- Modify, adapt, resize, crop, or otherwise adjust the artwork for production and marketing purposes

Entrant representations and warranties: By entering, each entrant represents and warrants that:

- The submission is entirely original and created by the entrant (except for properly licensed elements permitted by these Official Rules)
- The submission does not infringe any third-party rights
- The entrant has the right to grant the rights described in this Section and will provide documentation upon request

14) Publicity

By entering, entrants grant Great Meadow permission to use the entrant's name, county of residence, age category, artist statement, and the submitted artwork for publicity and promotional purposes without additional compensation, unless prohibited by law. For minors, Great Meadow will use recognition formats consistent with the consent provided by the parent/legal guardian.

15) Disqualification

Great Meadow reserves the right to disqualify any entry that:

- Does not follow submission instructions or these Official Rules
- Is submitted late
- Contains plagiarized, copyrighted, or otherwise infringing material
- Includes prohibited content or fails to meet technical specifications

- Appears to be tampered with, submitted through automated means, or otherwise violates the integrity of the Contest

16) Indemnification and Release

By entering, each entrant (and if a minor, the parent/legal guardian) agrees to release, defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Great Meadow Foundation, its officers, directors, employees, volunteers, agents, sponsors, and representatives from and against any claims, damages, losses, liabilities, costs, and expenses (including reasonable attorneys' fees) arising from or related to:

- The entrant's participation in the Contest
- Any breach of these Official Rules or entrant representations
- Great Meadow's use of the submitted artwork as permitted under these Official Rules

17) Privacy

Information collected in connection with the Contest will be used for Contest administration, to contact entrants about their submission, and for Great Meadow communications consistent with these Official Rules and applicable law. Great Meadow will not knowingly sell personal information collected for the Contest.

18) Right to Cancel, Modify, or Suspend

Great Meadow reserves the right to cancel, suspend, or modify the Contest (in whole or in part) if circumstances beyond its reasonable control compromise the fairness, integrity, or proper operation of the Contest, including but not limited to technical failures, fraud, or other causes. If the Contest is canceled, Great Meadow may, in its discretion, select winners from eligible entries received prior to cancellation.

19) Questions

For questions about the Contest, please contact: contest@greatmeadow.org.