



Contests, Grants, & Awards

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LAPTA Contests (LouisianaPTA.org/contests)

- **Fire Safety Poster Contest** – National Fire Prevention Week (nfpa.org/FPW) is October 6–12. Students create a Fire Safety Poster on 8½ X 11 paper. The contest is open to Pre-K through Grade 6, plus Accessible Arts Division (students of all ages with an ADA Section 504.) The 2024 theme is “Smoke Alarms: make them work for you!” Submit three entries per grade division to LAPTA by October 18, 2024. Winners announced October 25, 2024. LAPTA will award three Awards of Merit winners and three Awards of Excellence winners per Grade Division. ****Red Ribbon Week** and Seymore D’Fair Foundation & Coalition
- **Reflections Arts Program** – This 50+ year old program helps students explore their thoughts, feelings, and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence, and find a love for learning. The different **Art Categories** are Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts. PTAs decide which categories they will offer to their students. Each category has specific guidelines that must be followed. The annual theme is “**Accepting Imperfection.**” All entries are created with this theme in mind. Submit three entries per Art Category per Grade Division to LAPTA by January 19, 2025.
- **Reflections Theme Search** – National PTA has students create the theme for Reflections Arts Program in two years. All the PTA does is share the Reflections Theme Search Flyer with their students. LAPTA gets the submissions directly. Five are chosen to advance to National PTA. National PTA gives the final winner \$100! Deadline is November 18, 2024. Winners announced December 2. Entry link at LouisianaPTA.org/students.

Grade Divisions for Contest Entries (Everyone has at least two divisions.)

- **Primary** (Pre-K – Gr 2), **Intermediate** (Gr 3–5), **Middle School** (Gr 6–8), **High School** (Gr 9–12)
- **Accessible Arts Division** (students of all ages with a 504/ADA/IDEA may enter the Accessible Arts Division or the Grade Division most closely aligned to their abilities)

LAPTA Grants (LouisianaPTA.org/grants)

1. **National PTA Virtual Convention Grants** (20) – attend the virtual convention with Louisiana PTA as a potential voting delegate in June 2025 for free. Deadline is May 31, 2025.
2. **\$750 LAPTA Literacy Grants** (4) – for PTAs to host literacy programs at their schools. For possible programs, see PTA.org/Programs. Deadline is November 22, 2024. Winners announced December 2, 2024.
3. **\$750 Healthy Minds Grants** (4) – for PTAs to host mental health activities, events, and programs. See programs from National PTA at PTA.org/HealthyMinds. Deadline is March 31, 2025. Winners announced April 15, 2025.
4. **\$500 Day of Service Grants** (4) – for PTAs to reach beyond the school and into the community. How can you continue the legacy of PTA? Deadline is March 31, 2025. Winners announced April 15, 2025.
5. **\$500 Creative Teacher Grants** (4) – for classroom teachers to fund creative, innovative, and fun programs or projects for students. Deadline is March 31, 2025. Winners announced April 15, 2025.

National PTA Grants (pta.org/home/run-your-pta/Awards-Grants)

National PTA offers many grants to supplement PTAs hosting events and programs. Application is very easy and the window opens late August and closes quickly (date TBA.)

Awards (LouisianaPTA.org/awards)

The following award applications are due March 31, 2025. Winners announced April 15, 2025:

1. **Joseph F. Seeley Volunteer of the Year Award** (1) – The volunteers across Louisiana are truly the heart of the association. Recognize and thank that special person who goes above and beyond for all children.
2. **Outstanding Newsletter Award** (3) – Newsletters are an excellent tool for sharing news and ideas among PTA members. Refer to the Awards Toolkit for the Judge’s Rubric for ideas.

3. **Mentor-a-PTA Award (2)** – Recognizes an outstanding Mentor PTA who assisted another PTA through guidance, planning ideas, monthly check-in, and leadership support. Sign up to be a Mentor PTA!
4. **Advocacy Award for PTA Unit (2)** – Recognize PTAs for their advocacy efforts. There are countless ways a PTA can advocate! See suggestions at the application link or in the LAPTA Toolkit Section 11: Advocacy.
5. **Advocacy Award for Students (2)** – Recognize a student for their advocacy efforts. There are countless ways a PTA can advocate!

Monthly Membership Challenges (LouisianaPTA.org/membership)

1. **August Welcome Back, Yall! Award** – Submit 25 membership dues plus all Officers are registered with LAPTA
2. **September Jazzy Start Award** – Jazz up membership with 50% of the previous year’s membership total
3. **October Swamp Monster Award** – Don’t let the Rougarou get you before submitting 31 new members
4. **November Harvest Award** – Harvest 50 new members and fully file Active Affiliation Report
5. **December wONederland Award** – Achieve 100% of the previous year’s membership
6. **January 2025 Kick Off Award** – Kick off the new year by submitting 25 new memberships
7. **February Happy Birthday, PTA! Award** – Celebrate National PTA’s birthday on Feb 17 with 17 new members
8. **March Krewe of Membership Award** – Throw us a dozen new memberships

Summary: Aug (25), Sep (50% goal), Oct (31), Nov (25), Dec (100% goal), Jan (25), Feb (17), Mar (12)

Annual Membership Awards (Winners announced April 15, 2025.)

1. **Challenge Champ Award** – Earn five or more Monthly Challenges
2. **Membership Matters Award** – Increase membership by at least 10% from last year
3. **All Star PTA Award** – Reach your LAPTA goal for at least three years in a row
4. **Golden Apple Award** – 100% membership of teachers and administration
5. **Golden Magnolia Award** – 100% membership of student count

School of Excellence Award from National PTA (LouisianaPTA.org/programs)

National PTA School of Excellence recognition program supports and recognizes partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students. Enrollment for the 2024 program will close on October 15, 2024.

Summary of Dates for Contests, Grants, and Awards

October 18, 2024	Fire Safety Posters due
October 25, 2024	Fire Safety Poster Winners announced
November 18, 2024	Reflections Theme entries due
November 22, 2024	Literacy Grant application deadline
December 2, 2024	Reflections Theme Winners and Literacy Grant Winners announced
January 19, 2025	Reflections Arts Program entries due
March 3, 2025	Reflections Arts Program Winners announced
March 31, 2025	Healthy Minds, Day of Service, and Creative Teacher Grant application deadline; Volunteer of the Year, Newsletter, Mentor-A-PTA, and Advocacy Award application deadline
April 15, 2025	Healthy Minds, Day of Service, and Creative Teacher Grant Winners announced; Volunteer of the Year, Newsletter, Mentor-A-PTA, and Advocacy Award Winners announced; Annual Membership Award Winners announced



Reflections Arts Program

Rachel Penwell, LAPTA Reflections Chair

Reflections@LouisianaPTA.org

LouisianaPTA.org/reflections

Reflections Arts Program by National PTA

The Reflections Program provides opportunities for access to the arts, which boosts student confidence and success in the arts and in life. This 50+ year old program helps students explore their thoughts, feelings, and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence, and find a love for learning. This really is a fun PTA activity to offer to your students! Caddo can encourage its students to enter this AND the big local competitions. If you do not offer Reflections, students may participate with Lagniappe PTSA with \$5 dues (LagniappePTSA.org).

- **Art Categories:** 1) Dance Choreography, 2) Film Production, 3) Literature, 4) Music Composition, 5) Photography, and 6) Visual Arts. PTAs decide which categories they will offer to their students. Each category has specific guidelines that must be followed.
- **Grade Divisions:** Primary (Pre-K–Grade 2), Intermediate (Grades 3–5), Middle School (Grades 6–8), and High School (Grades 9–12), plus the Accessible Arts Division.
- **Accessible Arts Division** is another Grade Division for students of all ages with a 504/ADA/IDEA. These students may enter the Accessible Arts Division **or** the Grade Division most closely aligned to their abilities.
- **Theme:** the annual theme is “**Accepting Imperfection.**” All entries are created with this theme in mind.

Participation Steps for the PTA Leader

1. **Register** with LAPTA at LouisianaPTA.org/reflections.
2. **Training:** Watch the LAPTA training videos posted online and participate in the LAPTA Zoom Meetings.
3. **Customize** the Reflections Flyer with your art categories, contact information, and deadline.
4. **Promote:** Share the program with all families and teachers, especially the gifted, music, art, special ed, and literature teachers. Give them early notice if they would like to incorporate it into their curriculum. Recruit other volunteers to help organize the program. Students will need access to the Student Entry Form, Guidelines for the art categories, and the Media/Press Release for St. Tammany students. Complete the top portion of the Student Entry Form before distributing it. You decide how students submit their work to the PTA. Students can enter multiple categories. You can share downloads for students at LouisianaPTA.org/students.
5. **Judging:** The deadline to submit your winners to LAPTA is January 19, 2025. Set your deadline several weeks before then to give ample time for judging. Start looking for judges now. They should have expertise or experience with their art category. All judging is done blind and should not be done by PTA parents. The judge’s rubric and score card is a fillable PDF form online. You can decide how many winners you have, but only three per Art Category per Grade Division may advance to LAPTA.
6. **Portal:** The PTA may advance 3 winners per Art Category per Grade Division to LAPTA by January 19, 2025 through an online portal. The art entry and Student Entry Form are submitted electronically for each student. A PTA may enter in every Grade Division that its school includes, plus the Accessible Arts Division.
7. **LAPTA Winners:** LAPTA announces its winners on March 3, 2025. The LAPTA 1st Place National Entry Winners advance to National PTA competition who announces their winners on May 1, 2025. All LAPTA student winners receive an engraved medal, certificate, and a gift!

Reflections Theme Search – Deadline is November 18, 2024.

A Theme Search is underway for the Reflections Program in two years. The PTA simply distributes the Reflections Theme Search Flyer to students either by paper or digitally. LAPTA receives submissions directly and selects five to move forward to National PTA contest. The final national winner receives \$100 from National PTA!





Contests, Grants, & Awards

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LouisianaPTA.org/grants
LouisianaPTA.org/awards

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LAPTA Contests: 1) Fire Safety Poster Contest



- National Fire Prevention Week (nfpa.org/FPW) is October 6–12.
- Students create a Fire Safety Poster on 8½ X 11 paper.
- The contest is open to Pre-K through Grade 6, plus Accessible Arts Division (students of all ages with an ADA Section 504.)
- The 2024 theme is “Smoke Alarms: make them work for you!”
- Submit three entries per grade division to LAPTA by October 18, 2024.
- Winners announced October 25, 2024.
- LAPTA will award three Awards of Merit winners and three Awards of Excellence winners per Grade Division.
- **Red Ribbon Week** and **Seymore D’Fair Foundation & Coalition** – Visit seymoresfoundation.org for their complete Red Ribbon Week program.

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LAPTA Contests

2) Reflections Arts Program



- 50+ year old program that helps students explore their thoughts, feelings, and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence, and find a love for learning.
- The different **Art Categories** are Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts.
- PTAs decide which categories they will offer to their students.
- Each category has specific guidelines that must be followed.
- The annual theme is “**Accepting Imperfection.**” All entries are created with this theme in mind.
- Submit three entries per Art Category per Grade Division to LAPTA by January 19, 2025.



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LAPTA Contests

3) Reflections Theme Search



- National PTA has students create the theme for Reflections Arts Program.
- The theme will be for the 2026-27 year.
- All the PTA does is share the Reflections Theme Search Flyer with their students.
- LAPTA gets the submissions directly.
- Deadline is November 18, 2024.
- Winners announced December 2.
- Entry link is in multiple places including **LouisianaPTA.org/students**.
- Five are chosen to advance to National PTA.
- National PTA gives the final winner \$100!



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Contests' Grade Divisions



- **Grade Divisions are**
 - **Primary** (Pre-K – Gr 2),
 - **Intermediate** (Gr 3–5),
 - **Middle School** (Gr 6–8),
 - **High School** (Gr 9–12)
 - **Accessible Arts Division** is for students of all ages with a 504/ADA/IDEA. They may enter the Accessible Arts Division **or** the Grade Division most closely aligned to their abilities.
- A PTA can have multiple grade divisions.
- Every PTA will have at least two possible divisions.

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Grants from LAPTA LouisianaPTA.org/grants



- **\$750 LAPTA Literacy Grants (4)** – for PTAs to host literacy programs at their schools. For possible programs, see PTA.org/Programs. Deadline is November 22, 2024. Winners announced December 2, 2024.
- **\$750 Healthy Minds Grants (4)** – for PTAs to host mental health activities, events, and programs. See programs from National PTA at PTA.org/HealthyMinds. Deadline is March 31, 2025. Winners announced April 15, 2025.
- **\$500 Day of Service Grants (4)** – for PTAs to reach beyond the school and into the community. How can you continue the legacy of PTA? Deadline is March 31, 2025. Winners announced April 15, 2025.
- **\$500 Creative Teacher Grants (4)** – for classroom teachers to fund creative, innovative, and fun programs or projects for students. Deadline is March 31, 2025. Winners announced April 15, 2025.
- **National PTA Virtual Convention Grants (20)** – attend June convention virtually

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Grants from National PTA



- [PTA.org/home/run-your-pta/Awards-Grants](https://pta.org/home/run-your-pta/Awards-Grants)
- National PTA offers many grants to supplement PTAs hosting events and programs.
- Application is very easy and the window opens around August 28 and closes soon after (date TBA.)
- They frequently don't give away all of the funds, so please apply if you have a need, especially if you are a Title I school.

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Awards from LAPTA LouisianaPTA.org/awards



Due March 31, 2025. Winners announced April 15, 2025.

- **Joseph F. Seeley Volunteer of the Year Award (1)** – The volunteers across Louisiana are the heart of PTA. Recognize and thank that special person.
- **Outstanding Newsletter Award (3)** – Newsletters are an excellent tool for sharing news and ideas among PTA members. Refer to the Judge's Rubric for ideas.
- **Mentor-a-PTA Award (2)** – Recognizes an outstanding Mentor PTA who assisted another PTA through guidance, planning ideas, monthly check-in, and leadership support. Sign up to be a Mentor PTA!
- **Advocacy Award for PTA Unit (2)** – Recognize PTAs for their advocacy efforts. There are countless ways a PTA can advocate! See suggestions at the application link or in the LAPTA Toolkit Section 11: Advocacy.
- **Advocacy Award for Students (2)** – Recognize a student for their advocacy efforts. There are countless ways a PTA can advocate!

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LAPTA Membership Awards



- Monthly Membership Challenges (8) – Summary of the challenges is Aug (25), Sep (50% goal), Oct (31), Nov (25), Dec (100% goal), Jan (25), Feb (17), Mar (12)
- Annual LAPTA Membership Awards (5)
- School of Excellence Award from National PTA – Supports and recognizes partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students. Enrollment for the 2024 program will close on October 15, 2024.

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Summary of Dates



October 18, 2024	Fire Safety Posters due
October 25, 2024	Fire Safety Poster Winners announced
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November 22, 2024	Literacy Grant application deadline
December 2, 2024	Reflections Theme Winners & Literacy Grant Winners announced
January 19, 2025	Reflections Arts Program entries due

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Summary of Dates



- March 3, 2025 Reflections Arts Program Winners announced
- March 31, 2025 Healthy Minds, Day of Service, and Creative Teacher Grant application deadline; Volunteer of the Year, Newsletter, Mentor-A-PTA, and Advocacy Award application deadline
- April 15, 2025 Healthy Minds, Day of Service, and Creative Teacher Grant Winners announced; Volunteer of the Year, Newsletter, Mentor-A-PTA, and Advocacy Award Winners announced; Annual Membership Award Winners announced



Reflections Arts Program

Rachel Penwell, Reflections Chair
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 LouisianaPTA.org/reflections

P.T.A

VERB /PEE-TEE-AY/

TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL IN ONE OR MULTIPLE WAYS:

- 1) To invest in your child's potential.
- 2) To volunteer for your child's potential.
- 3) To advocate for your child's potential.



Reflections Arts Program

- Provides access to the arts, which boosts student confidence and success in the arts and in life.
- 50+ year old program helps students explore their thoughts, feelings, and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence, and find a love for learning.
- Fun PTA activity to offer to your students.
- Caddo Parish can encourage its students to enter this AND the big local competition.
- If you do not offer Reflections, students may participate with Lagniappe PTSA with \$5 dues (LagniappePTSA.org).
- As usual, always have the principal's support and permission.

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Art Categories

PTAs decide which categories they will offer.



Dance
Choreography



Music
Composition



Film
Production



Photography



Literature



Visual Arts

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Grade Divisions

- Grade Divisions are
 - Primary (Pre-K – Gr 2),
 - Intermediate (Gr 3–5),
 - Middle School (Gr 6–8),
 - High School (Gr 9–12)
 - **Accessible Arts Division** is for students of all ages with a 504/ADA/IDEA. They may enter the Accessible Arts Division **or** the Grade Division most closely aligned to their abilities.
- A PTA can have multiple grade divisions.
- Every PTA will have at least two possible divisions.



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ADVOCATE FOR YOUR CHILD <small>National PTA</small>	<h1>How to Participate</h1> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register with LAPTA at LouisianaPTA.org/reflections. • Receive training and support from LAPTA. • Customize the materials. Select the categories the PTA will offer. Set your deadlines to get your winners to LAPTA by January 19, 2025. • Promote the program with your community. Share with teachers, especially gifted teachers and resource teachers. • Recruit volunteers to assist. • Students will need access to the Student Entry Form, Guidelines to their categories, and Media Release for STPSB. • They can enter multiple categories. • You can use LouisianaPTA.org/students for students to download forms. • Decide how you will receive entries from your students. 	VOLUNTEER FOR YOUR CHILD <small>National PTA</small>
UNITE FOR YOUR CHILD <small>National PTA</small>		ENGAGE FOR YOUR CHILD <small>National PTA</small>
CHAMPION FOR YOUR CHILD <small>National PTA</small>		ACT FOR YOUR CHILD <small>National PTA</small>
INVEST FOR YOUR CHILD <small>National PTA</small>		CONNECT FOR YOUR CHILD <small>National PTA</small>
JOIN FOR YOUR CHILD <small>National PTA</small>		PTA FOR YOUR TEEN <small>National PTA</small>

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<p>P.T.A VERB /PEE-TEE-AY/ TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL IN ONE OR MULTIPLE WAYS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To invest in your child's potential. 2) To volunteer for your child's potential. 3) To advocate for your child's potential. <p style="text-align: center;"><small>National</small> PTA <small>everychild.onevoice.</small></p>	<h1>Judging</h1> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deadline to submit your winners to LAPTA is January 19, 2025. Set your deadline several weeks before then to give ample time for judging. • Start looking for judges now. They should have expertise or experience with their art category. • All judging is done blind and should not be done by PTA parents. • The judge's rubric and score card is a fillable PDF form at LouisianaPTA.org/reflections. • You can decide how many winners you have, but only three per Art Category per Grade Division may advance to LAPTA.
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Online Portal

- You are allowed 3 winners per art category per grade division.
- The Local PTA submits their winners to LAPTA through an online portal.
- Everything is submitted digitally.
- Each entry includes the Student Entry Form and their creation.

LAPTA Winners

LAPTA announces its winners on March 3, 2025. The 1st Place National Entry Winners advance to National PTA competition who announces their winners on May 1, 2025. All LAPTA student winners receive an engraved medal, certificate, and a gift!

