

# Protect Our Florida Black Bears!

## 20TH ANNUAL CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL ART CONTEST



### The Cape Coral-Lee County Public Library

and the Friends of Cape Coral Library invite children ages 5-12 years to participate in the 20th Annual Children's Environmental Art Contest Coloring the Earth. The theme is Protect Our Florida Black Bears! To enter the contest, create an original painting or drawing that shows how we can protect this precious species from habitat loss, trophy hunting and other main threats.

### Prizes & Awards

Winners will be selected from four age categories: 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12. There will be five awards for each age group with certificates for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, as well as two honorable mentions.

Awarded artwork will be exhibited at the library until Thursday, June 25 and on **CapeFriends.org** under "Art Gallery." The awards ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at the Cape Coral-Lee County Public Library.

### Contest Rules

- Open to ages 5-12 years. Submit one entry only.
- Entries should be on a flat, medium- to heavy-weight art paper, size 8.5" by 11." Watercolor, crayons, pencils, color markers and/or any other preferred material may be used.
- Visit the following website to learn more about ways we can help protect our black bears in SW Florida! [floridawildlifefederation.org/florida-black-bear/](http://floridawildlifefederation.org/florida-black-bear/)
- Artwork will be viewed and voted on by three local artists, a specialist from Sierra Club Florida and a representative of *The News-Press*. Entries will be judged based on originality and quality of art. Winners will be notified by phone at the beginning of May, 2026.
- Neither the Library nor the FOCCL are responsible for lost or damaged artwork. Artwork on display, as well as other artwork entries, will be returned by directly contacting Alessia Leathers at [alessialeathers@yahoo.com](mailto:alessialeathers@yahoo.com)

**Deadline:** To participate in the contest all artwork must be received by noon **Saturday, May 2, 2026**. The Cape Coral-Lee County Public Library will have a designated box in the children's area to receive entries. Questions? Contact Alessia Leathers at [alessialeathers@yahoo.com](mailto:alessialeathers@yahoo.com)



### CAPE CORAL-LEE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

921 S.W. 39th Terrace, Cape Coral  
239-479-4636



*The school is neither endorsing nor sponsoring this event, product or service, nor endorsing the views of the sponsoring organization.*

**Please fill out, trim and tape to the back of entry. Submit to the Cape Coral-Lee County Public Library by Saturday, May 2, 2026.**

FIRST Name

LAST Name

Age

Grade Level

Teacher

School

How did you learn about the Coloring the Earth Art Contest?

Phone Number