



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Congaree National Park News Release

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Youth Art Contest **Students to Showcase Congaree National Park Through Artwork**

Hopkins – Congaree National Park is seeking entries for the 16th Annual SwampFest Student Art competition. Co-sponsored by Southeast Rural Community Outreach (SERCO) and the Friends of Congaree Swamp, the competition is an opportunity for young artists from the Midlands to showcase their talent and celebrate Congaree National Park's diverse resources. This year's theme is A River Runs Through It and students are asked to incorporate waterways in and around the park into the artwork. Park staff and volunteers will select first place and honorable mentions from the entries. The first place entries will receive cash prizes, provided by the Friends of Congaree Swamp and SERCO. All entries will be displayed at Congaree National Park's Harry Hampton Visitor Center from October 6 through October 31, 2018.

"We're really looking forward to SwampFest and the art competition," says Community Volunteer Ambassador Kellie Weidinger, "the artwork that area students create is an amazing way to tell the park's stories." Park staff decided on the theme of waterways as a way to celebrate the natural and cultural stories. "Water is such an important part of the park," says Weidinger, "it also connects to the people and communities around the park."

Students in grades K-12 may submit art from any medium to their teachers or parents. Teachers and parents should ensure that all entries include the following information: student name, school, teacher name, grade level, teacher contact information. Entries can be mailed to: Kellie Weidinger, Congaree National Park, 100 National Park Rd., Hopkins, SC 29061 or dropped off in person at the Harry Hampton Visitor Center, open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. All entries are due no later than Wednesday, September 26, 2018. For additional information about the competition contact Kellie Weidinger, 803 647-3983 or [e-mail us](mailto:kellie.weidinger@nps.gov) for more information.

For more information about the art contests at Congaree National Park, call 803.647.3970 or visit www.nps.gov/cong.

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