

art doing its part

**A MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL ART AND SLOGAN CAMPAIGN
FACING CHALLENGES OF LOCAL LITTER ISSUES**



VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:
[MSUCOASTAL.COM/ARTDOINGITSPART](https://msucoastal.com/artdoingitspart)



The Issue

Mississippi and connecting water bodies face significant litter problems, much of which originate from inland areas. Items like bottles, cigarette butts, straws, and fragmented plastics travel through rivers, streams, and stormwater systems to eventually reach coastal waters, affecting human health, local economies, and aquatic life. Addressing this issue requires a statewide, collaborative approach, involving both inland and coastal communities.

For humans, litter disrupts vital habitat and ecosystem services, including commercial fishing, transportation, tourism, and overall health and safety.

In natural habitats, litter can alter ecosystem structure, reduce oxygen and light levels in water bodies, and cause animals to become entangled.

Biologically, wildlife may ingest harmful debris, leading to impaired feeding, movement, or reproduction. For example, sea turtles often mistake plastic bags for food. According to the EPA, plastic marine debris alone affects an estimated 267 species worldwide.

About the Competition

Art Doing Its Part is a statewide art and slogan competition open to all high school students that raises awareness about the connection between local litter and waterway pollution. The contest personalizes the issue by highlighting litter challenges unique to different regions, showing how local actions can impact both nearby and distant environments. By fostering a sense of shared responsibility, the competition encourages communities to take pride in their surroundings and actively engage in waste reduction, prevention, and cleanup efforts.

Students will create a 2D artwork, a matching slogan, and a short reflection. Selected pieces will be featured in a statewide marketing campaign and displayed on billboards, t-shirts, a traveling art exhibit, outreach materials, and a beach beautification project.



Further Learning Materials

Before creating your artwork and slogan, take some time to explore the topic through a bit of research. We've put together learning materials to help you better understand the impacts of litter and how they affect communities. You can use these resources to identify the issues that matter most in your area, or you're welcome to dive into your own research to inspire your work.

LITTER EDUCATION DOCUMENT

IN-CLASSROOM PRESENTATION

Winners

Each participating school will select one student artist to advance to the next round of judging. From there, each regional hub will choose one winner from the schools in its region, resulting in seven finalists total—one from each region.

An overall winner will then be selected by a panel of diverse specialists based on three criteria: how well the work addresses the issue of litter, the quality of the composition and how effectively the artistic elements support the theme, and the creativity and originality of the expression or story.

The overall winner's school will receive 10 water refill stations. All seven finalists will have their artwork and slogan featured in a statewide marketing campaign and showcased in a traveling art exhibit across the state. Each finalist's school will have the opportunity to participate in a local cleanup, supporting litter removal and the beautification of their community.





Guidelines and Submission Instructions

Deadline to submit artwork and slogan to your regional hubspot:
October 23, 2026

Dimensions: 18" x 24"

Allowed Mediums (2D only):

- Drawing: Graphite, charcoal, colored pencils, pastels, ink
- Painting: Acrylic, watercolor, oil, gouache
- Digital Media: No AI-generated work
- Mixed Media: Any combination of the above

Slogan and Reflection:

Each student must create a slogan to accompany their artwork and write a reflection of 50–150 words explaining their piece.

School Selection:

Each school will select one finalist to advance in the competition. Once your school winner is chosen, contact your regional hubspot for submission instructions, as procedures may vary by region.

Regional Winners:

If you are selected as a regional winner, a hard copy of your artwork will be required for scanning and inclusion in the traveling art exhibit.

All artwork will be returned after the exhibit concludes.

Regional Map and Point of Contact

Region 1

Delta Arts Alliance
www.deltaartsalliance.org

Dawn Ales
Dawn@deltaartsalliance.org

Region 2

Yoknapatawpha Arts Council
oxfordarts.com

Wayne Andrews
yacoperations@gmail.com

Region 3

Lee County MS State Extension

Warner Creekmore
warner.creekmore@msstate.edu

Region 4

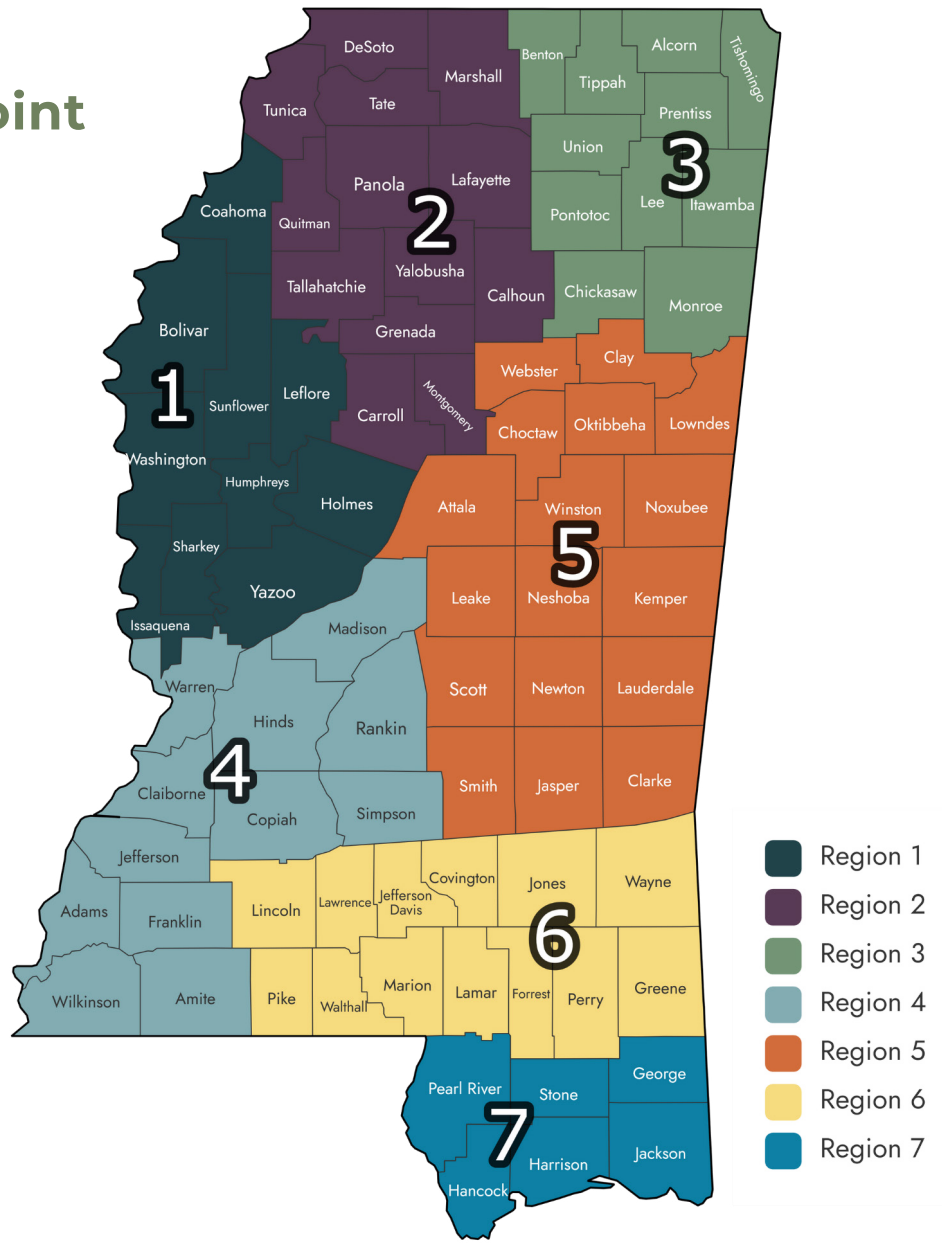
Briarwood Arts Foundation
briarwoodartscenter.com

Stephen Brown
info@briarwoodartscenter.com

Region 5

Smith County MSU Extension
extension.msstate.edu/msu-extension-smith-county

Tina Phillipson
cnt16@msstate.edu



Region

Piney Woods Conservation Group
www.pinebeltblueways.com

Shawn M. Harris
pineywoodsconservationgroup@gmail.com

Region

Walter Anderson Museum of Art
www.walterandersonmuseum.org

Sandra Bilbo
sandra@walterandersonmuseum.org

