



International Cartographic Association
Commission on Cartography and Children



RULES FOR THE BARBARA PETCHENIK CHILDREN'S MAP COMPETITION 2027

The Barbara Petchenik Award was created by the International Cartographic Association in 1993 as a memorial for Barbara Petchenik, a past Vice president of the ICA and cartographer who worked through her life with maps related to children. The aim of the contest is to promote the creative representation of the world in graphic form by children.

The awards are given every two years during the ICA International Cartographic Conference, preferably at least one for each continent and only one award by country, with special consideration to the age of the child producing the drawing. The awarded drawings can be submitted to international organisations (UNICEF or others) for consideration as greeting cards or other publication. Participating nations are encouraged to report on the ways they have used for collecting drawing (video report, etc.) and to collect and archive maps for further research.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COMPETITION

The aims of the competition are to promote children's creative representation of the world, to enhance their cartographic awareness and to make them more conscious of their environment.

GENERAL RULES OF THE COMPETITION

- **Any country interested on participating in the competition can** collect maps, on the theme **"Maps in everyday life"**, produced by children under 16 years of age. This is the theme for the Barbara Petchenik Children's Map Competition for the conferences in **2025 and 2027**.
- The competition in a country can be organised by:
 - The member state organisation of a member state
 - An affiliate member on behalf of a member state
 - An affiliate member in a country that is not an ICA member state
- If the member state organisation does not organise the competition, then an **affiliate member** from the same country can organise it. **Other entries from these countries are not accepted.**
- The entries will be collected in four age groups:
 - under 6 years
 - 6–8 years
 - 9–12 years
 - above 12 (13–15) years

- When determining which age group a participant should be included in, the child's age at the time of taking part in the national competition shall be taken into account
- An entry can be drawn by a maximum of three authors, all of them belonging to the same age group. If the number of authors is larger than three, then the entry is disqualified and separated from the competition.
- The following awards will be given by the International Cartographic Association: **three prizes** (1st, 2nd and 3rd place) by each age group, **special mentions** if jury members consider it necessary, a **Public Award** and a **Creativity Award**.
- The international judging will focus on the following criteria: 1) understanding of the theme (drawing with a recognizable message addressing the theme), 2) creativity and originality (own ideas inspired by the theme, personal perspectives, innovative use of cartographic language according to the child's age), 3) communication and storytelling (the drawing communicates an own idea of tell a story narrated spatially in an understandable way), 4) cartographic content developed according to the child's age, and 5) the quality of execution (overall visual appealing and attention to details).

In other words, judges will be looking for:

1. a recognizable connection between the form, shape, and use of cartographic elements according to the child's age, which creatively address the competition's theme.
 2. a recognizable image of all or a portion of the world in which the shapes and relative locations of land masses and oceans are as correct as can reasonably be expected for the child's age and within the context of the "system of projection" used.
 3. In the last (13 to 15 years) age group judges consider the use of appropriate cartographic elements such as symbols, colors, names and labels, legend (if needed), scale awareness, etc., which help address the competition's theme:
 - clarity and legibility of the point, line and area symbols appropriate to the media of expression, whether on paper or other surfaces, whether drawn or made up of indigenous materials.
 - expressive rendering and appropriate use of the perceptual dimensions of color, i.e., changes in value for quantitative distinctions and changes in hue for qualitative distinctions.
 - overall aesthetic quality in such matters as balance and harmony among the image elements, as well as its' visual hierarchy.
- ICA endeavours to select themes for the competitions that convey positive universal messages such as peace, solidarity, environmental protection, etc. ICA asks national organisers to ensure that no drawings containing a political message are submitted to the international competition. Drawings conveying a political message will be excluded from the competition.
 - ICA asks national organisers to ensure that political maps depicting the modern world (those showing the current borders of countries) include only those borders officially recognised by the United Nations (UN) during the period in which the competition is organised. Should a drawing fail to meet this requirement, it will be excluded from competition.
 - Parameters of the entries:

1. the maximum size must not exceed A3 (420 mm x 297 mm or 17 x 11 inches)
 2. the surface should be flat and pasted-on objects may not be higher than 5 mm or 0.2 inch and have to be thoroughly fixed.
 3. the map can be made using any unbreakable material (thus no glass).
 4. no moveable or folding-out parts covering sections of the drawing (Note: the submissions will be photographed or scanned and the complete drawing has to be visible in one scan or photo).
 5. no perishable materials (like leaves of plants) and non-unstable elements may be used
 6. do not plasticize or laminate the drawings because that disturbs the physical appearance of the drawing.
- The entry should be an original handmade piece of work created for the competition and it must be made using traditional methods (colour pencils, water colour, etc). Entries created using digital tools (graphics software or apps, AI tools, etc.) are not eligible for the competition.
 - Each map must have the following information on a label attached to the back side of the representation: the name, age, school or personal address and country of its author and the title in either English or French (the ICA's official languages). If the entry is individual (not sent by a school) the author's legal representatives (e.g. parents) will decide to make or not public their personal address. If the representatives do not agree to make it public, the official address of the ICA National Commission will be used for future contacts. The sender will sign a declaration that the drawings submitted to the competition are original works made by the children only.
 - Parents of national winners (who have been selected to represent their countries in the International Exhibition) should sign a printed, official ICA form (Parental Permission) agreeing to their children's participation in the competition and the future use of their drawings for publication.
 - The winning entries will be submitted to international organisations (UNICEF International Art Committee or others), as well as to cartographic, GIS and other entities (e.g. ESRI) by the ICA Executive for consideration as greeting card designs, posters or other kind of publication that might best showcase the maps created for the Competition. ICA may use them as well. Any participant must agree that his/her representation may be reproduced by the ICA or other international organisations or scanned for publication on the Internet by Carleton University (on behalf of the ICA) without consultation or copyright fees.
 - Competition maps will be archived in the Archives and Research Collections at Carleton University Library and will be available for public viewing on the Library's website (see <https://childrensmaps.library.carleton.ca/> or <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14718/111>).

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS, PARENTS, ETC (TEACHER'S GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING THE COMPETITION)

- A National Coordinator, who will be nominated by the ICA member state organisation for

that country (see list at <http://icaci.org/national-members/>), will be responsible for providing all information needed by teachers interested in having their students participate in the competition.

- If any interested person or institution from a non-ICA member state is interested to participate, we ask them to contact the representatives of ICA Commission on Cartography and Children as well as organiser of the international competition for details on their participation. If ICA affiliate members wish to organise the competition in an ICA member state, first they should contact ICA member state organisation to arrange the details related to the national competition. In the case of disagreement between both parties in a country, the affiliate member and member state organisation should inform ICA Executive Committee for the committee's help to reach an agreement.
- Maps should be made following the general rules of the competition and the specific national rules determined by the National Coordinator.
- All the entries should be submitted to the National Coordinator by the deadline specified in the Call for entries in the National Competition.
- If a country does not organise the competition and has no National Coordinator, potential Competition entrants should contact the International Coordinator of the Competition and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the ICA Cartography and Children Commission (see <http://icaci.org/commissions>) before submitting an entry.
- Submissions sent individually by schools, parents, etc without any previous contact with the International Coordinator of the Barbara Petchenik Competition and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the ICA Cartography and Children Commission will not be accepted and will not displayed or returned.

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR'S GUIDELINES

- The ICA Executive, consulting with Cartography and Children Commission Chair, will nominate an International Coordinator for the Competition. The International Coordinator's tasks are:
 - To collect the entries submitted by the participating nations in the competition, checking if the submissions meet the requirements specified in the General rules. If the requirements are not met the International Coordinator will contact the National Coordinator to find a solution, consulting with Chair of the ICA Cartography and Children Commission.
 - To acknowledge by email the receipt of each country's submission.
 - To make a database of all submissions containing the data submitted with each drawing.
 - To scan or take digital photographs of the entries which will be used to make a website containing submissions arranged by country and age group. The images must be accessible to the members of the International Judging Commission prior to the International Cartographic Conference (two months beforehand).
 - To safely convey the entries received from the participating nations to the address given by the Local Organising Committee of the next International Cartographic Conference (1 month before the ICC).
- All these activities will be supported financially by the ICA through the General Secretary/Treasurer.

NATIONAL COORDINATOR'S GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING THE COMPETITION

- ICA General Secretary/Treasurer sends a copy of the General Rules of the Competition to each National Coordinator approximately a year before the next contest.
- Each ICA member state will nominate a coordinator to run the contest in his/her country.
- The member state organisation of an ICA member state can nominate an ICA affiliate member organisation from the same country to organise the competition at national level. In this case the affiliate member will decide the person to be the coordinator of the national competition.
- The name of the coordinator must be received by the Chair and Vice-Chair of Commission on Cartography and Children as well as the International Coordinator at latest three months prior to the submission date of map entries. ICA member states, where no national coordinator is identified, may participate provided that the ICA Executive receives the name of a member state organisation or affiliate member willing to act as the coordinator for that country three months prior to the submission date of map entries.
- Each national committee will select a **maximum of six (6) maps**, to be forwarded to the International Coordinator. For the purposes of the national competition, criteria other than those used for the international competition may be considered.
- The National Coordinator is responsible for collecting the hand-signed Parental Permissions of entries sent to the International Exhibition and to send the original permissions to the International Coordinator.
- The maps selected by the national committees must be sent directly to the International Coordinator and not to the ICC Local Organising Committee.
- When submitting the selected entries to the International Coordinator, national committees are requested to include a letter which, for each submission, gives the following information: the name, age, school or authorized address and country of its author, the title in either French or English.
- As an optional contribution to assist the international organiser's work, and provided that the national organisers have the appropriate equipment, they are asked to send a digital copy of the drawings selected in the national competition for the international organiser. The copy may be made using a scanner and can be sent in TIFF or JPG format, with a resolution of 300 dpi.
- All entries sent to the International Coordinator must have a label attached to the verso of the representation which states the name, age, school or authorized address, country, and the title in either French or English, as well as the declaration signed by the sender
 - The maps with the hand-signed Parental Permissions and an accompanying letter should be sent so that it arrives **by Friday 30 April 2027**, prior to the next ICA conference to the address of the International Coordinator of the Barbara Petchenik Competition. This address is also provided on the ICA website (<http://icaci.org/petchenik/>) and Commission website (<http://lazarus.elte.hu/ccc/ccc.htm>):

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- All entries will be displayed during the next ICA conference as part of the International Map Exhibition that will be held during the 33rd International Cartographic Conference of the International Cartographic Association in Warsaw, Poland, 18-23 July 2027.
- Representatives of a member state will be responsible for distributing the certificates that will be subsequently awarded by the international Judging Commission. These certificates will be produced and provided by the Local Organising Committee of the International Cartographic Conference.
- The national coordinator and the ICA member state organisation can agree to the use of entries not awarded at national level of the competition by national organisations or institutions only for educational and research purposes, excepting cases of ICA sponsorship. The national coordinator is asked to send this information to the ICA Cartography and Children Commission Chairperson(s) to publish this information in the commission website.
- If a national coordinator or ICA member state organisation is contacted by an international organisation, then ICA Executive Committee (President and/or Secretary General) and the Cartography and Children Commission Chairperson(s) should be contacted before taking a decision.
- Beginning from 2019, national coordinators are invited by the Chairperson of the Judging Commission to participate in the voting process to be developed before the International Cartographic Conference. For detailed information on the voting process, please read the chapter entitled "ICA Judging Commission".
- Participating nations are encouraged to collect and archive all the entries in their national competitions and to inform the Cartography and Children Commission (<http://lazarus.elte.hu/ccc/ccc.htm>, <https://www.facebook.com/icaccc/>) about their proposed methods for announcing the competition, establishing any additional judging criteria and the selection process used. This information will be of value in evaluating the success of the Competition and in making adjustments for future Competition operations.

ICA JUDGING COMMISSION

- Judging Commission is formed by eight (8) members (one Chair and seven members). Members of the Judging Commission can be selected from all those ICA Commissions which activities are related to Children, Education and Art. One or a maximum of two colleagues representing other international organisations related to children, education and cartography (IGU, UNICEF, other regional organisations, etc) can be also invited to be member of the Judging Commission.
- Chairperson of the Judging Commission will be proposed by the ICA Cartography and

Children Commission. When the nomination is approved by the representatives of ICA Executive Committee, both Chairpersons (Judging as well as Cartography and Children Commission Chair) can propose the other seven members of the Judging Commission to be also approved by representatives of the ICA Executive Committee.

- National Coordinators are invited by the Chairperson of the Judging Commission to participate in the voting process by e-mail to be developed before the International Cartographic Conference
- Members of the Judging Commission and national coordinators cannot vote for entries from their own countries;
- A 1st, 2nd and 3rd place may be determined in each age group: under 6, from 6 to 8, from 10 to 12 and above 12 (13–15) years;
- A maximum of two entries can be nominated for a place, giving them the same number of points;
- Each nominated drawing receives 5 points for 1st place; 3 points for 2nd place and 2 points for 3rd place;
- The sum of points received by a drawing determines its place within each age group: first 3 drawings (1st, 2nd and 3rd) in each age group receive ICA awards. Judging Commission has the right to declare empty a place in any age group or to give special mentions if members consider it necessary (e.g. special Jury award for the youngest participant).
- This whole procedure will be completed before ICA conferences using e-mail between the Chair of the Judging Commission, its members and national coordinators who participated in this procedure;
- The votes are summed by the Chair of the Judging Commission, who will send the results to all the members of the Judging Commission.
- During the International Cartographic Conference, the Chair and members of Judging Commission will personally meet in the Barbara Petchenik Exhibition, being responsible for making final decisions if needed, e.g. if the number of votes is the same for two maps, etc.
- The Judging Commission can give only one prize to a country in any of the four age groups. This prize is apart from the public vote and the Creativity Award and a country can obtain both of them (a prize from the Judging Commission and the prize from the public vote) or up to three prizes.
- The results of the judging should normally be conveyed to the ICA Executive on the last day of the paper sessions at the ICC.
- Members of the Judging Commission will be introduced, the award-winning drawings displayed, and a summary of results will be announced during the Closing Ceremony of the ICC. This information will be published in the ICA News, as well as on the ICA and Commission websites. It will be sent to other international and regional organisations related to Geography, Cartography, Education, etc. in the interest of disseminating and making known the results of the competition.
- The awards will be given to the representatives of a country or affiliate member during the

Closing Ceremony. Member state organisations will present the awards to winners at a suitable occasion in their home country at an appropriate time after the conference.

- The production of the awards certificates is the responsibility of the Local Organising Committee, represented by the Local Organiser of the Barbara Petchenik Exhibition, supported by the ICA Executive Committee represented by the Secretary General. Local Organiser receives from ICA Secretary General the amount in euros to be given together with the diplomas to the representatives of winner entries. The member state organisations of a member state or the affiliate member are, in turn, responsible for conveying the certificates to the awardees. If an entry is awarded and there are no representatives participating in the International Cartographic Conference, the Local Organiser and the Chair of Judging Commission should give the certificate and prize to the ICA Secretary General, who will send it for the winner after finishing the Conference.
- The work of each national coordinator should be acknowledged by a letter from the ICA Executive.
- Following the competition, all the national maps displayed at the ICC will be archived by the ICA.

PUBLIC AWARD

- The ICA Conference Local Organising Committee is responsible in advertising a **public vote** on the Competition entries, which they should be allowed to do so provided that five conditions are met:
 1. Members of the Judging Commission are responsible for counting the votes given by the visitors to the Barbara Petchenik International Exhibition.
 2. Only one entry will be declared winner of the public vote in the four age groups;
 3. the public vote will not be a criteria for or influence on the ICA judges as the voting public will likely have no knowledge or appreciation of the Competition rules and guidelines;
 4. the voting slip design is adjudicated by the Cartography and Children Commission, on behalf of the ICA Executive Committee, so that its intent is clear; and
 5. that the Local Organising Committee is responsible for printing and distributing the voting slip between participants (usually placing it into the conference bag), for placing voting boxes in the exhibition areas to facilitate the voting of visitors, for producing the Public Award certificate and to be responsible of notifying national participants to not voting on the entries coming from the Organiser country.

CREATIVITY AWARD

- From 2017, the ICA Commission on Art and Cartography gives a **Creativity Award** for a selected entry in any of the four age groups.
- Chair and Vice-Chair of the Art and Cartography Commission organise a Judging Commission formed by a Chair and two members. This Judging Commission evaluates the exhibited drawings and selects one winner according to their own rules.
- The production of the award certificate is the responsibility of the Local Organising Committee, represented by the Local Organiser of the Barbara Petchenik Exhibition and supported by the ICA Executive.
- Members of the Art and Cartography Judging Commission will be introduced and the award-winning drawing will be displayed and announced during the Closing Ceremony of the ICC.

GUIDELINES FOR THE ORGANISATION OF BARBARA PETCHENIK INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

The Local Organising Committee will exhibit the entries for the Barbara Petchenik contest either at the conference site or at the site where the map exhibition and technical exhibition are held. To this end:

- The Local Organising Committee is responsible to name a Local Organiser of the exhibition
- The Local Organising Committee will provide support needed to the Local Organiser, after entries are received from the International Coordinator and storing the same in appropriate conditions until the exhibition is mounted, including transportation of the entries to the exhibition venue
- The Local Organiser will instruct the technical staff to avoid the use of any kind of glue, adhesive tape, *Velcro*, etc directly onto the surface of the maps. Using a good quality drafting tape initially is recommended, which can later be peeled off without damage to the maps. Use of a drawing pin on the map corners is also acceptable.
- The Local Organiser, supported by the Local Organising Committee, is responsible to find a quick solution to possible difficulties that can arise during the exhibition. The entries on the Exhibition stands should be organised by countries and each of them accompanied by the data related to each entry (code, title, author, age, school, country) printed in a readable size and displayed appropriately illuminated.
- Entries that have been disqualified are only exhibited and they are not eligible for voting.
- The Local Organiser and the Local Organising Committee are responsible for printing and distributing the voting slip between participants (usually placing it into the conference bag) and for placing voting boxes in the exhibition areas to facilitate the voting of visitors.
- The Local Organiser, supported by the Local Organising Committee, should assure diplomas are produced in all Competition categories.
- After the exhibition, the Local Organiser, supported by the Local Organising Committee, will package and safely dispatch all entries and parental permissions as soon as possible to Carleton University Library at the following address:

Attention: Sherri Sunstrum
Research Support Services, room 122

MacOdrum Bldg. Carleton University Library 1125 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa, ON K1S 5B6 Canada

"ARCHIVE OF THE BARBARA PETCHENIK CHILDREN'S MAP COMPETITION" AT CARLETON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, OTTAWA, CANADA

All past competition entries are archived and can be viewed at
<https://childrensmaps.library.carleton.ca/> or <https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.14718/111>

ICA OFFICIAL TERMS USED IN THE RULES

Member state (ICA member state): ICA member country

Member state organisation (ICA member state organisation): the official representative for the member state or country (see list on <https://icaci.org/national-members/>)

ICA affiliate member: an organisation or institution in an ICA member state or representing ICA in a country that is not an ICA member state

Official terms used by ICA are defined on:

https://icaci.org/files/documents/reference_docs/ICA_statutes-EN_2023.pdf