



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.
- 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 given by the international Judging Commission for the selected winner drawings.

"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