



Illinois State PTA

National Reflection Advancers



This year Illinois State PTA received 406 advancing entries from thirteen of the seventeen Districts and Regions. On February 28, 2019 our state submitted 25 entries to National PTA for further consideration and recognition.

National Advancing Artists:

Dance Choreography

Sienna Chansey (Primary) for "Dance For Heroes" from Lester PTA
Lily Tompos (Intermediate) for "Hero In You" from Jackson PTA - Elmhurst
Kylie Buedel (Middle School) for "Heroes Unnoticed" from Crone Middle School PTA

Film Production

Jesse Botts (Primary) for "Awesome Cat Saves Space Kitty" from Emerson PTA - Wheaton
Jace Wheat (Intermediate) for "Police: Everyday Heroes" from Wiesbrook PTA
Tyler Bouris (Middle School) for "Heroes Around Us/Breaking News" from Hubble PTA
Marissa Perales (High School) for "Heroes Around Me" from Oak Lawn High School PTA

Literature

Ethan Smrz (Primary) for "I Love To The Moon and Back" from Jefferson PTA - DeKalb
Karina Shah (Intermediate) for "A Hero Can Be Anyone" from Campanelli PTA
Sarah Richtman (Middle School) for "Heroes Around Me" from Herrick PTA
Ananya Handa (High School) for "A Hero" from Metea Valley PTSA
Pranav Ravindrakumar (Special Artist) for "Nurse Catrina to Rescue" from Fry Elementary PTA

Music Composition

Nicholas Deligiannis (Primary) for "Teamwork" from Lincoln PTA - Elmhurst
Aditya Kashyap (Intermediate) for "Heavenly Heroes" from Lincoln Prairie PTA
Airi Ito (Middle School) for "Hero" from Margaret Mead PTA
Christopher Coster (High School) for "Free Me" from Neuqua Valley PTSA

Photography

Thomas Murphy (Primary) for "My Uncle John" from Roosevelt PTA - Belleville
Justin Canvin (Intermediate) for "Hero Hands" from Sward PTA
Ethan McVay (Middle School) for "Heroes in the Smallest Things" from Quincy Jr. High PTA
Monica Colunga (High School) for "The Ones Who Protect" from Oak Lawn High School PTA
Mustafa Bukhari (Special Artist) for "Captain Y" from Fry Elementary PTA

Visual Arts

Raashi Mehta (Primary) for "911 Heros" from Woodland PTA
Chelsea Pinto (Intermediate) for "My Hometown Heros" from Edison PTA - Elmhurst
Jacy Fu (Middle School) for "Ordinary Heroes" from Campanelli PTA
Morgan Murphy (High School) for "Take On Me" from Krietner PTA
Toma Obayashi (Special Artist) for "Growth and Support from Metea Valley PTSA

At the state level, we are proud to recognize these artists their outstanding entries that illustrate this year's theme as Honorable Mentions.

State Honorable Mentions:

Dance Choreography

(Primary Division)

Phethikshaa Theyagavajan for "Stand Tall Against all Odds" from Pleasant Hill PTA - Palatine

(Intermediate Division)

Naomi DeRosa for "Heroes Around Everyone" from Woodland PTA

Allison Langworthy for "My Hero" from Park View PTA

Limi Nagano for "Heroes Around the World" from Hunting Ridge PTA

Taya Rozanski for "Proud to be an American" from Kimball Hill PTA

Aadya Venkat for "Women Are My Heros" from Graham PTA

(Middle School Division)

Vanessa Junquera for "Tribute to Heroes" from Gregory Middle School PTA

Rhea Makkuni for "A Tribute to Unsung Heroes" from Marion Jordan PTA

Film Production

(Primary Division)

Lucas Maida for "The Dog Heroes Among Us" from Hammerschmidt PTA

(Intermediate Division)

Gwenyth Fortier for "Super Parents" from Kolmar PTA

Adam Hammel for "The Heroes Around Me" from Woodland PTA

Mason Hildy for "Everyday Heros" from Jackson PTA - Elmhurst

Saajan Ray for "Lombard Lifesavers: The Heroes Among Us" from Hammerschmidt PTA

Victor Walkowiak for "Heros Around Me" from Edison PTA - Elmhurst

(Middle School Division)

Allison Capota for "Heroes in My world" from Lincoln Prairie PTA

Jacob Painter for "Heroes in There Own Right" from South Middle School PTA

(High School Division)

Morgan Murphy for "Operation Christmas Child" from Krietner PTA

Literature

(Primary Division)

Vivian Delzell for "My Superheroes" from Longfellow PTA
Shreya Jayasankar for "My Sister is My hero" from Fry Elementary PTA
Santhosh Rajesh for "Following Dad" from Woodland PTA

(Intermediate Division)

Alan Krzepisz for "Heroes Around Me" from Collins PTA
Dayita Mandal for "Valiant Venture" from Central Road PTA
Lilly Moore for "All Around Me" from Hannum PTA
Venessa Okonkwo for "My Female Hero, Malala Yousafzai" from Sunnybrook SD 171 PTA
June Rectenwald for "Spirit" from Longfellow PTA

(Middle School Division)

Fiona Barros for "A True Hero" from East Prairie Elementary PTA
Anna Enderle for "Unlikely Heroes" from Oak Lawn Hometown Middle School PTA
Elizabeth Isyanov for "My Great Grandfather" from Bryan Middle School PTA
Madhan Manikandaswamy for "Unsung Heroes" from Gregory Middle School PTA

(High School Division)

Mansi Gupta for "Inked Not Faded" from Neuqua Valley PTSA

Music Composition

(Primary Division)

Sahana Sriram for "Heroes Around Me" from Fry Elementary PTA
Ashley Warmbir for "Be Someone's Hero" from Highland School PTA

(Intermediate Division)

Vivienne DeRosa for "Heroes Every Day" from Olive-Mary Stitt PTA
Sparsh Gautam for "I Love My Family" from Fry Elementary PTA

Yaahn Mody for "Climbing Everest" from Madison PTA - Wheaton

(Middle School Division)

Abigail Gillham for "Valiance" from Gregory Middle School PTA
Sanjana Kashyap for "Heroic Horizons" from Lincoln Prairie PTA

(High School Division)

Sagar Patange for "Sonata in D Minor" from Metea Valley PTSA

Photography

(Primary Division)

McKenna Fox for "Heart Warrior" from Patton PTA
Sydney Powers for "Meme's Hands" from Carrie Busey PTA
Maahi Shah for "My Super Mom" from Highland School PTA

(Intermediate Division)

Kelsey Howard for "Heroes Close to My Heart" from Nancy Young PTA
Meredith Moran for "A Line of Heroes" from Woodland PTA
Erin Sievert for "Firefighters Are Heroes" from Hillcrest PTA
Aden Sweetser for "The Defenders" from Sward PTA

Ashley Ward for "Johnny" from Nancy Young PTA
(Middle School Division)
Jillian Gorvett for "My Dad is My Hero" from GWMS PTSA
Dhriti Pai for "Lifeline" from Scullen PTA
Ryder Schuch for "The Veteran Who Keeps Saving" from Thomas Middle School PTA
(High School Division)
Morgan Murphy for "To Save a Life" from Kreitner PTA

Visual Arts

(Primary Division)

Haley Benda for "Face's of My Heroes" from Maryville PTA
Owen Bovee for "9-1-1" from Jefferson PTA – Collinsville
Morgan Hollars for "My Real Heroes" from Hometown PTA
Eloise Long for "One Person Can Change the World" from Ben Franklin PTA
Jaxson Sydello for "The Army Defending Us" from Hillcrest PTA

(Intermediate Division)

Sophia Commo for "The World's Heroes" from Forest Glen PTA
Wilson Freiburg for "Fireman's Pride" from Iles Elementary PTA
Addison Green for "Heroes Within" from Sward PTA
Layla Nieves for "You Can Be a Hero, Too" from O A Thorp PTA
Aoi Takata for "My Teacher" from Collins PTA
Allison Yuknis for "Cousins in Camo" from Pleasant Lane PTA

(Middle School Division)

Anya Chauhan for "Bapu: Father of Modern India" from Keller Jr. High PTA
Maddie Ernst for "Malala" from Thomas Middle School PTA
Michaela Romero for "Stronger Together" from Herrick PTA
Erika Swiecki for "American Hero" from Delay/Lace/EJH PTA

(High School Division)

Sara Hammonds for "Burning Woods" from Quincy High School PTA
Magdalena Tylka for "The Paws of My Life" from Oak Lawn High School PTA

(Special Artist Division)

Nikolas Cruz for "Hero Cop, Rescue" from Posen-Gordan PTA
Finley Cunningham for "Earths Greatest Heroes" from Paddock PTA
Jackson Desamero for "Marchall to the Rescue" from Woodland PTA
Tamya Podlin for "My Mom" from Addams PTA
Yovani Varela for "USA Armyboat" from Kreitner PTA

Thank you to all our artists that participated this year for sharing your thoughts and talents on "Heroes Around Me." Next year's theme is "Look Within."