

## Illinois PTA **SPOTLIGHT** Event

### A Children's Celebration of Arts and Community

Starting in 2014, the Illinois PTA Annual SPOTLIGHT event has grown into our premier event for families and children. Celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May 2023, we are excited to see the amazing things our children create next in the next decade.

#### **Q. What is the SPOTLIGHT Event**

**A:** The Illinois PTA SPOTLIGHT Event is an annual celebration that aims to honor the creative achievements and talents of Illinois children and youths who participate in the National PTA Reflections Art program. The event is organized by the Illinois Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and has become a prominent and much-anticipated gathering for families across the state.

The primary objective of the event is to showcase the artistic expressions of students who have participated in the Reflections Art program. This program encourages students, ranging from Pre-K to Grade 12, to explore their artistic potential through a variety of mediums, including film production, dance choreography, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts. Students interpret and bring to life the annual theme of the Reflections program in their creations.

During the event, the artwork and performances of these young artists are celebrated and recognized. The submissions go through a rigorous judging process, with the highest-rated entries progressing through multiple levels, starting from local levels to state and potentially even national recognition. Approximately 400-500 students and their work are acknowledged at the state level, showcasing their creativity at the Illinois PTA Spotlight Event.

The Illinois PTA SPOTLIGHT event serves as a platform for young artists to gain visibility and recognition for their artistic efforts. The event also acts as a catalyst for fostering creativity, supporting education in the arts, and bringing communities together to appreciate and encourage the talent of their children.

#### **Q. Can anyone attend the SPOTLIGHT event?**

**A:** Yes! The SPOTLIGHT Event is open to all children in Illinois, regardless of their participation in Reflections or other PTA programs, encouraging inclusivity and a diverse representation of young talents. Alongside celebrating artistic achievements, the event offers workshops aimed at inspiring children to continue their engagement with the arts. These workshops also focus on enriching their lives by providing opportunities for learning and growth.

#### **Q. When is the SPOTLIGHT event?**

**A:** Typically scheduled on a Saturday or Sunday sometime in April or May.

#### **Q. Where can I get more information regarding the Reflections Program?**

**A:** Visit <https://illinoispta.org/reflections/>