Dear Artist,

Thank you for your interest in Minnesota’s 2016/2017 Stamp Contest. This information provides you with all the criteria and application materials needed to submit an entry. Please read thoroughly, follow the criteria, and submit your entry with the forms provided. Best of luck with your design!

1. APPLICATION

The contest is open only to Minnesota residents who have maintained a legal residence in the state for 60 days immediately preceding the entry deadline date for the contest. Only one design may be submitted per contestant. If two or more designs are submitted, all of the artist's designs will be declared ineligible.

Entries for the 2016/2017 Minnesota Stamp contest will be accepted as follows beginning the Monday and continuing until 4 p.m. on the Friday as listed. This means your entry must be delivered to the Division of Fisheries or received in the DNR mailroom no later than 4 p.m., on the Friday listed for that contest. Late entries will not be accepted.

Designs may be mailed to the Department of Natural Resources main office (500 Lafayette Road, Box 20, St. Paul, MN 55155-4020) or delivered in person. The design should be securely wrapped and enclosed in a container. The words “Stamp Contest" should be clearly marked on the outside of the container.

Two completed forms must be included with the design:

1) Entry form (affixed to the back of your design)
2) Reproduction Rights Agreement.
(completed and signed)

Both are required for eligibility

Failure to include these forms will render your entry ineligible.

Please ensure your entry has dried before wrapping for submission. Entries with wet paint have been submitted in the past and have been damaged by sticking to wrapping or other objects. The Department will handle all entries with utmost care; however, contestants are advised that it is their responsibility to obtain adequate property insurance for their entry. The Department of Natural Resources does not insure entries and assumes no liability for their damage, loss or theft.

A winning artist is ineligible to compete in a contest for the same type of stamp for two years after the first win. If a previous winning artist should win 2 or more times, his or her ineligibility is extended to four years after each win thereafter.

The winning artist will receive no financial remuneration from the State of Minnesota. The winning design will be returned to the artist after processing and display. The enclosed Reproduction Rights Agreement, granting the Department of Natural Resources the right to use the design for stamp image and other purposes, must be signed and submitted with the design to be considered for the contest. Designs submitted without a signed Reproduction Rights Agreement will be ineligible for the contest and returned.

2. DESIGN STANDARDS

Designs may be in one or a combination of media. The inclusion of any photographic product within the finished entry is prohibited and will result in its disqualification. Printing processes (screen printing, intaglio, lithography, relief) are acceptable provided photographs were not incorporated in the production of the final entry.

The design must be two-dimensional and horizontal: 6-1/2 inches high by 9 inches wide.

The design must be firmly attached to white matting 9 inches high by 12 inches wide. The matting must not have a black or colored accent border.

The entry cannot exceed 3/8 inch in thickness.
Any entry signed, lettered, or otherwise identified by the artist on the face of the design will be disqualified.

The design must not be framed or under glass. An acetate or similar clear plastic covering is acceptable. However, it does make judging the design more difficult.

Any winning design from another stamp contest (federal, state or private) is ineligible. Designs that have been judged in the final stage of judging in any previous Minnesota Stamp contest are also ineligible.

The design must be of the artist's own creation, neither copied nor duplicated from another person's art, including paintings or drawings in any medium or published photographs. The entry form, which affirms originality, must be signed and attached to the back of the design.

3. JUDGING

The contest will be held on the dates as listed for each contest. Final judging, which is expected to occur at 2:00 p.m., will be open to the public. The judging will take place at the DNR building, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul 55155.

The judging panel will consist of members chosen from areas of expertise including: art, ichthyology, Fish and Wildlife background, conservation, and printing. The names of the artists will remain unknown to the judging panel until the winners are selected.

Each entry is given an identifying number prior to the judging to keep the artist's identity unknown. Three rounds of judging are used to select the winner. During the first round of judging, the panel views all entries, turning over the numbers of the entries they wish to see advance to the second round.

During the second round, the entries selected by the judges in the first round are moved to another area. The judges then review these entries, marking the numbers of the entries they wish to advance to the finals on a judging sheet. These votes are tallied and any entry receiving at least 3 (three) votes enters the finals.

During the final round, which is open to the public, the judges give each entry a score by holding up a card with a number. Votes are tallied and the winner and runners-up are announced. In the case of a tie for first place, judges will repeat the process for the third round, but only on the tied entries. Ties for runners-up will not be re-judged.

4. RETURN OF ARTWORK

Entries will be returned to the address specified by the artist or, alternatively, they may be picked up in person with valid photo identification during the display times. Winning entries and runner up entries will be retained by the DNR for photographic work and returned at a later date. If artwork is returned to the DNR (this may happen if an artist changes address) or is otherwise unclaimed, the DNR will not be obligated to trace the location of the artist to return the artwork. Any artist who changes his or her address is responsible for notifying the DNR of the change. All unclaimed entries may be destroyed after one year from the date of the contest.

5. DISPLAY OF ENTRIES

All entries will be displayed at the conclusion of judging at the DNR for one-half hour. The following day, all entries will be on display in the 1st floor conference room of the DNR building, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

6. QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about the contest and these criteria or to be included on an email list for future contest announcements, please contact Kristel Peters at (651) 259-5221 or email at kristel.peters@state.mn.us.
MINNESOTA HABITAT STAMP CONTEST ENTRY FORM

By signing below I represent and certify that the information I have provided below is true, that I have abided by the criteria set forth in this application, and that my entry is an original of my own creation, neither copied nor duplicated from another person’s art.

NOTE: be sure to firmly affix this application to the back of your entry, package carefully, and submit with the Reproduction Rights Agreement.

Signature: ____________________________________________________________

Printed Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________ City ______________

State: __________ Zip: _______ County: ______________

Telephone (home): (____)_________________ (work) (____)_________________

Species Submitted: __________ Medium: ______________ Year ______________

Completed: ______________

If this artwork is copyrighted, year of registration:___________ Registration Number____________

Specify contest entered: ____________________________ 2016/2017

All entries will be returned to the artist. Please obtain adequate supplemental insurance, if desired. Be sure to enclose the signed Reproduction Rights Agreement.
WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota, by and through the Department of Natural Resources, hereinafter referred to as the "DEPARTMENT", conducts an annual contest to select the design for the MINNESOTA STAMP, hereinafter referred to as the "STAMP"; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned artist, hereinafter referred to as the "ARTIST", created and submitted an original work of art as an entry for consideration in the 2016/2017 annual contest for the 2016 STAMP, hereinafter referred to as the "DESIGN"; and

WHEREAS, if the ARTIST'S DESIGN is the winning entry for use on the 2016/2017 STAMP, the ARTIST agrees to the conditions concerning reproduction rights contained in this Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual benefits to be derived from use of the DESIGN for the 2016/2017 STAMP, the parties hereto understand and agree that:

1. The ARTIST represents and certifies that the DESIGN is the ARTIST's own creation, is neither copied nor duplicated from previously published or unpublished art (including paintings, drawings, or images in any medium) or published photographs, and has neither been a winning entry in any other stamp contest nor has been judged in the final round of any previous Minnesota contest; and

2. From and after the time the DESIGN is submitted to the DEPARTMENT, the DESIGN shall be retained by the DEPARTMENT under its exclusive possession until such time as the printing of the 2016/2017 STAMP has been completed. Completion of the printing of the STAMP shall mean that time, as determined by the DEPARTMENT when all of the STAMPS have been printed and delivered to the DEPARTMENT and found acceptable. The DEPARTMENT may copy and reproduce the DESIGN and may publish or otherwise distribute such copies or reproductions for educational, promotional or informational purposes at any time.

3. The DEPARTMENT agrees to take all reasonable precautions to protect the DESIGN from damage or loss while in its possession. However, the ARTIST expressly waives any claim for damages to the DESIGN, however caused, against the State of Minnesota, its employees or agents, or parties authorized to display the DESIGN.

4. The ARTIST hereby grants to the DEPARTMENT the following exclusive and irrevocable rights:

   (A) To publish or otherwise reproduce and distribute the DESIGN as a STAMP image on the 2016/2017 MINNESOTA STAMP; and

   (B) To publish, reproduce or make derivative works, display and distribute the STAMP image in media other than the MINNESOTA for commercial and other purposes.

5. Ownership of the original work of art incorporating the DESIGN may be retained by the ARTIST and it shall be copyrighted with the Copyright registered, and it may also be copied, reproduced, published, or otherwise distributed by the ARTIST, but any Copyright of the DESIGN or any agreement made by the ARTIST with any other person or company covering the use of the DESIGN shall be expressly made subject to the rights of the DEPARTMENT under this Agreement.

6. If the ARTIST decides to reproduce the original work of art incorporating the DESIGN in the form of prints, the ARTIST agrees to provide, at no cost, two (2) prints to the Department. If the print is made available in a numbered limited edition, the two (2) prints provided to the DEPARTMENT must be from the numbered limited edition and signed by the ARTIST. The two (2) prints must include the following numbers: 2, and 3.

7. Any and all reproductions of the STAMP image made or authorized by the DEPARTMENT under the terms of this Agreement, except the engraving and printing of the MINNESOTA STAMP, and reproductions thereof authorized pursuant to the provisions of this Agreement, shall whenever practical indicate that the original has been designed by the ARTIST.

8. The ARTIST understands and agrees that the DEPARTMENT, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to make minor changes in the DESIGN for preparation of the STAMP image and its derivative works without obtaining approval from the ARTIST. Upon the ARTIST's written request, the DEPARTMENT shall provide the ARTIST with a written list of all changes made.

9. All rights granted in this agreement to the DEPARTMENT or its licensees of the DESIGN, STAMP image and derivative works shall be without compensation to the ARTIST.

10. The DEPARTMENT reserves the right not to hold or complete a contest or to publish the winning DESIGN in any manner.

11. The ARTIST and the DEPARTMENT are bound by the application of Minnesota Rules 6290.0100 through 6290.0800.

I have read and agree to the above conditions:

Print name: ________________________________________________________________

Signature: ________________________________________________________________

Date: __________________ Specify which contest __________________ 2016/2017.

Address: ________________________________________________________________

City, State, Zip: _____________________________________________________________

Daytime phone number: (_____) ________________________________
Trout and Salmon Stamp

Entries Accepted: Monday, August 3, 2015 – Friday, August 14, 2015 at 4 p.m.
Entries Judged: Thursday, August 20
Final judging is expected to occur at 2 p.m. and is open to the public
Public Viewing: Friday, August 21, from 10 a.m. - noon
Eligible Species: brown, splake, rainbow, and lake trout, coho, pink chinook, and atlantic salmon
Not Eligible: Brook trout

Migratory Waterfowl Stamp

Entries Accepted: Monday, August 17, 2015 – Friday, August 28, 2015 at 4 p.m.
Entries Judged: Thursday, September 3
Final judging is expected to occur at 2 p.m. and is open to the public.
Public Viewing: Friday, September 4, from 10 a.m. - noon
Eligible Species: American wigeon

Pheasant Habitat Stamp

Entries Accepted: Monday, September 7, 2015 – Friday, September 18, 2015 at 4 p.m.
Entries Judged: Thursday, September 24
Final judging is expected to occur at 2 p.m. and is open to the public.
Public Viewing: Friday, September 25, from 10 a.m. - noon
Eligible Species: The ring-necked pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), must be the primary focus of the design; however, other species may be included in the design if they are used to depict a common interaction between species or are common inhabitants of Minnesota’s pheasant range.

Walleye Stamp

Entries Accepted: Monday, October 5, 2015 – Friday, October 16, 2015 at 4 p.m.
Entries Judged: Thursday, October 22
Final judging is expected to occur at 2 p.m. and is open to the public.
Public Viewing: Friday, October 23, from 10 a.m. - noon
Eligible Species: The walleye (*Sander vitreus*), must be the primary focus of the design; however, other species may be included in the design if they are used to depict a common interaction between species or are common inhabitants of Minnesota’s lakes.

2017 Wild Turkey Contest

Entries Accepted: Monday, December 7, 2015 – Friday, December 18, 2015 at 4 p.m.
Entries Judged: Thursday, January 7, 2016
Final judging is expected to occur at 2 p.m. and is open to the public.
Public Viewing: Friday, January 8, from 10 a.m. - noon
Eligible Species: The eastern wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*), must be the primary focus of the wild turkey stamp design; however, other wildlife species may be included in the design if they are used to depict a common interaction between species or are common inhabitants of Minnesota’s wild turkey range.

All contest judging and public viewing will be held at:
Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155