



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



National Garden Clubs, Inc.

2026 Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

TIMELINE

Date	Activity	Responsibility of
August 2025	Information packages mailed to poster contest chairpersons and Forest Service conservation education and fire prevention coordinators	Forest Service
January 20, 2026	Local winning posters must be received by the State garden club or poster contest chairperson	Local garden club or poster contest chairperson
February 23, 2026	State winning posters must be received by the regional garden club or poster contest chairperson	State garden club or poster contest chairperson
March 16, 2026	Regional winning posters must be received by the National Garden Clubs poster contest chairperson	Regional garden club or poster contest chairperson
April 6, 2026	Judging to select the national winners for each grade level	National Garden Clubs poster contest chairperson and Forest Service staff
April 15–30, 2026	Selection of the national grand prize winner	Forest Service employees
May 2026	Announcement of national poster contest winners	National Garden Clubs (at their national convention)
Summer 2026	National grand prize winner recognition ceremony	Forest Service and National Garden Clubs, Inc.

