



August 2, 2010

Arts Olympiad Invitation

The International Child Art Foundation invites you and your students to participate in the **4th Arts Olympiad**, the world's largest and most prestigious arts and sport program for children ages 8 to 12.

ICAF does not charge any program fee for the Arts Olympiad, which provides an opportunity for you and your students to represent your U.S. state or territory at the **World Children's Festival** to be held in Washington, DC on the National Mall on June 17-19, 2011. The World Children's Festival, held every four years, is the world's largest international celebration of children's creativity and imagination.

The Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan introduces children to the "artist-athlete" ideal of a creative mind and healthy body. The lesson plan will take 2-4 class sessions to complete and to organize a school art competition on the theme *My Favorite Sport*. The winning artworks, both painting and digital art, are exhibited at the World Children's Festival and at other major international venues. Your students produce painting and/or digital art.

You are requested to:

- Encourage students to create original artworks interpreting the theme *My Favorite Sport*
- Utilize the artworks produced to encourage athletically inclined students to be creative and non-athletically inclined students (at risk of obesity) to engage in their favorite physical activity
- Select a panel of judges which includes your students and local business leaders to select the School Finalist Artwork
- Submit your school's Finalist Artwork before the year's end to ICAF in Washington, DC

A panel of prominent educators and artists will select your State winners in each of the two competition categories from all the entries submitted. The selection will take place in Washington DC in January 2011. You will receive a formal notification if your student's artwork is your state's winner. If so, then you, your student and his/her parents will be invited to represent your State at the 2011 World Children's Festival. ICAF does not charge any registration fee for participation in the 3-day festival. However, your school PTA and local business leaders must arrange the funds to cover the delegation's travel and accommodation expenses.

Even if the Arts Olympiad winner is not from your school, you and your students are invited by ICAF to participate in the World Children's Festival 2011, a three-day celebration that is free and open to the public. Please visit www.icafe.org for more information and to download a complimentary copy of the amazing *ChildArt* magazine.

U.S. ARTS OLYMPIAD LESSON PLAN

Art and sport have the powers to change the world, the power to inspire, the power to unite people in a way that little else can. Art and sport speak to people in a language they understand. Art and sport can create hope where there was once only despair. They are instruments for peace, even more powerful than governments.

- Nobel Laureate Nelson R. Mandela

The Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan meets the National Arts Education (Visual Arts) Content Standards 3, 5 and 6, and the following related Achievement Standards: (a) Choosing and evaluating a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas to convey meaning (*regarding a student's favorite sport*); (b) Reflecting upon and assessing the characteristic and merits of their own work and the work of another (*student involvement in judging the school entries*); and (c) making connections between visual arts and other disciplines (*sport*).

The U.S. Olympic Committee has granted ICAF exclusive to use the "Arts Olympiad" mark. The "artist-athlete" mark, the Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan and the programmatic elements included therein are the property of ICAF. No reproduction or external use is allowed without written permission of ICAF.

Arts Olympiad Lesson Plan

Refresh that part of thyself which is most wearied. If thy life is sedentary, exercise the body; if stirring and active, recreate thy mind.

- Thomas Fuller (1608-1661)

I. PRE-COMPETITION ACTIVITIES

The activities suggested below will allow your students to develop connections between art and sport, express their opinions, and create their own individual artwork. You are free to use any combination of the activities described below and modify these to fit your curriculum.

Activity A: The Purpose of Art and Sport: This activity opens students' minds to possible connections between Art and Sport through a series of discussion questions.

Activity B: Thinking Beyond the Stereotype: This activity gives students a "hands-on" approach to breaking stereotypes by thinking outside the box.

Activity C: Building Peace through Art and Sport: This activity familiarizes students with the Olympic ideals, and how art and sport can help build peace in today's world.

Activity A. The Purpose of Art and Sport

Why do people create art? Why do people compete in athletics? Addressing these basic questions with your students will allow students to think in detail about the issues. The following activity can help guide the discussion.

Have half the students of a class be "Artists" and the other half be "Athletes." Then, ask the students to develop and write down their own answers to two questions. (Artists get questions 1 and 2 and Athletes get questions 3 and 4):

- Qs. 1. *Why do people draw, paint, sculpt, dance, etc...?*
- Qs. 2. *How does creating Art make you feel?*
- Qs. 3. *Why do people run, play soccer, climb trees, etc...?*
- Qs. 4. *How does playing Sports make you feel?*

Once they have finished writing their answers, the students are put in Artist-Athlete pairs to discuss their responses with one another and to answer one final question: What are the similarities between why people create Art and participate in Sports? At the end, each group will present their answers to the class.

Activity B. Thinking Beyond the Stereotype

Many students falsely believe that everyone and everything fits into a particular mold. They may assume that athletes cannot create wonderful art and artists cannot be athletes. This activity is designed to encourage students to look beyond these assumptions and break stereotypes.

For this activity, several pieces of athletic gear (such as balls, bats, nets, gloves, etc.) and art tools (such as paint brushes, canvases, construction paper, etc) will be necessary. The exact type does not matter, as long as the object is defined as a tool in arts or sports.

Split the class into teams of three or four and give each group one of the objects. Ask the students to analyze the object for a few moments. Then, ask the students to create an art project using the sporting gear or a game using the art tools. Using the questions below, have students create a specific structure for each game or project, which they then may present to the class.

Art Tools: *How is this tool usually used?*

Create a game using the following rules: your tool must be used throughout your game, and you must not destroy your tool in order to use it in the game. Otherwise you are free to create whatever you imagine.

What is the name of your game?

What are the rules of your game?

How is your object used in your game?

How is its use in your game different than its general use?

Sporting Equipment: *How is this object usually used? It is associated with which sport?*

Create an art project using your object as either a tool or a part of a piece of art. Describe the project below, but do not actually create the project.

What is the name of your project?

What materials do you need for your project?

What are the steps to making your piece of art?

How is your object used for your project?

How is its use different than its general use?

In the process of this activity, students will learn that objects can have specific purposes, but can often be used creatively in other ways. Then, ask the students how this activity relates to people, and their purposes. Guide students to see that people, too, can have many skills - including being both artistic and athletic.

Activity C. Building Peace through Art and Sport

Divide the class into small groups to allow the students to work together to come up with their own visions of how art and sport can be used to create peace.

By blending sport with culture and education, the Olympics promote a lifestyle based on:

- (a) The balanced development of mind, body and character;*
- (b) The joy of effort;*
- (c) The value of role models;*
- (d) The value of teamwork; and*
- (e) Observing the ethics of tolerance, generosity, unity, friendship and respect.*

Suggested questions to ask the students: What do these ideals mean to you? Have you witnessed these ideals before when playing sports? How could they apply to art as well?

II. ARTS OLYMPIAD COMPETITION GUIDELINES

School Art Competition

Organize an art competition on the theme *My Favorite Sport* into which the students combine the themes discussed in class. Encourage students to be creative with the topic, particularly those who do not see themselves as athletic. Ask the students to look deeper into the sport than just the actions themselves; ask the students to look at the message, movement, and values that are related to sports.

Students may choose to represent a native sport, or a sport they like to play or watch, or they may even invent their own sport. If possible, involve the physical education instructor – with enough energy and passion, the very act of making art can be an athletic activity!

Submissions must be in one of these two forms:

Traditional 2-Dimensional Art

A painting or drawing on paper, canvas, silk or any other two-dimensional medium, **approximately 18" x 24" in size;**

or

Digital Art

Static visual work created using digital tools to imagine a sport, capture the image of a favorite sport, or a collage combining the two (300+ dpi).

Selection of School Finalists

Constitute a panel of judges which includes your students and local business leaders to select the School Finalist Artwork. The judging criteria should give more weight to imagination and originality, rather than technical merit alone.

Deadline

The School Finalists' artwork must be sent to ICAF on or before **December 31, 2010**.

Mail:

International Child Art Foundation, P. O. Box 58133, Washington, DC 20037, USA

UPS/FedEx:

International Child Art Foundation, 2540 Virginia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20037

Email:

program@icaf.org and copy to artistathlete@yahoo.com

Sending Finalist Artwork

The School Finalist painting or drawing should be mailed to ICAF (packaged flat and not rolled up). The finalist digital art can be emailed to program@icaf.org or a CD can be mailed along with the painting/drawing. The attached "School Finalist Artwork" form should be completed for both categories. This form could be taped to the back of the painting/drawing. For digital art, the form can be scanned and emailed to ICAF.

III. OFFICIAL DELEGATES TO THE WORLD CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Held on the National Mall in Washington, DC every four years, the World Children's Festival is the largest international celebration of children's creativity and imagination in the world. Any school can send a delegation to the World Children's Festival, a 3-day event in June 2011, which will be open and free to the public.

The Official Delegations to the World Children's Festival are Arts Olympiad winners (one in painting category and one in digital art category), their parents or guardians, school principal or teacher, and local sponsor if any. The schedule of activities is as follows:

June 16, 2011	private all-day session with the Arts Olympiad winners
June 17-19, 2011	World Children's Festival on The National Mall
June 20, 2011	World Children's Awards Banquet for the Official Delegations

IV. ICAF

An independent and nonpartisan 501(c)(3) non-profit, ICAF serves as the national art and creativity organization for American children and as the international art and creativity organization for the world's children.

ICAF is a pioneer in effectively and systematically bringing about a change in public awareness with respect to children's creative and empathic development. Towards this end, ICAF organizes the Arts Olympiad globally, hosts the World Children's Festival every four years, publishes the *ChildArt* magazine quarterly, launches Peace through Art Programs and Healing Arts Programs occasionally, and arranges art exhibitions internationally. ICAF is a leading advocate for the rights of a child to be creative and empathic.

School Finalist Artwork 4th U.S. Arts Olympiad

(write below the line)

I. SCHOOL

School/Institution name	Name of Organizer	
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip code
Telephone (with area code)	Organizer's email	School/Institution email
How many students participated? Comments on the lesson plan?		

II. STUDENT ARTIST

First name	Last name	Age	Date of birth
Mailing Address			
City	State	Zip code	
Telephone	Parent's name	Parent's email	
Title of Artwork & Medium			

I hereby certify that the attached "My Favorite Sport" artwork is the original work of the student artist named above. I further understand that the child's artwork becomes entirely the property of the International Child Art Foundation (ICAF) and cannot be returned. I agree that the artwork may be published, exhibited or reproduced by ICAF in myriad of ways, or transferred by ICAF to other organizations or individuals, without further authorization from or any compensation to the student and his/her parent, guardian or schoolteacher.

II. TEACHER AND PARENT

Name of Organizer (please print)	Signature	Date
Name of Parent/Guardian (please print)	Signature	Date

