San José Public Library
2021 Graphic Novel Making Contest Guidelines

San José Public Library’s Graphic Novel Making Contest is open to all California residents and participants of all ages.

Here’s how to enter ...

- Create your own comic book/graphic novel with a maximum length of 8 pages, including the cover page.
- Use letter-size paper (8.5 x 11) with black-and-white drawings on single-sided pages only.
- Each submission must be the creative and original work of the submitting author/illustrator. Any submissions with more than one author/illustrator will be considered a single entry judged under the age category of the oldest author/illustrator listed and will share any prizes possibly awarded.
- The contest is limited to amateur authors/illustrators only.
- Computer generated images are acceptable as long as they are your original work (no clip art).
- Consider submitting a photocopy or digital scan that is an accurate reflection of the original (San José Public Library cannot guarantee the return of paper submissions).
- San José Public Library reserves the right to reproduce your work. You can reuse all your work after the contest.
- Complete the Graphic Novel Making Contest Entry Form. Entries turned in without a complete Contest Entry Form will be ineligible. Entries with more than one author/illustrator must each provide a Graphic Novel Making Contest Entry Form with their submission.
- Entries are encouraged to be submitted digitally at https://sanjose.librariesshare.com/sjgraphicnovelcontest/ or emailed to graphicnovels@sjlibrary.org as a JPEG or PDF attachment. Digital entries must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM on Saturday, July 31, 2021.
- Entries can also be submitted to any operating San José Public Library location no later than end of business day on Saturday, July 31, 2021.
- There is a limit of one entry per contestant(s).

Entries will be judged using a rubric scale covering the following: overall story, originality, creativity and illustrations by a panel of library staff and comic industry professionals. The detailed judging criteria and rubric used for this contest is available on our website (see below). All cash prizes will be awarded as gift cards. Up to two Honorable Mentions in each age group will be awarded an art pouch.

- Children ages 0-7: Gift and art supply baskets awarded for first, second and third place winners
- Children ages 8-9: Gift and art supply baskets awarded for first, second and third place winners
- Pre-Teens (10-12): Gift and art supply baskets awarded for first, second and third place winners
- Teens (13-17): first prize $100; second prize $75; third prize $50
- Adults (18 and above): first prize $100; second prize $75; third prize $50

Winners will be announced during a Virtual Award Ceremony on Saturday, August 28th, 2021.

For more information, and to view the judging criteria, please visit http://www.sjpl.org/graphicnovels

San José Public Library reserves the right to refuse submissions that are not appropriate for a general audience.
San José Public Library staff members are ineligible to participate. This contest is open to all California residents.
San Jose Public Library  
2021 Graphic Novel Making Contest Entry Form

Name: _____________________________________________      Age: __________ (Check here if 18 years or older___)

Pen Name (if used) :  _____________________________________________

Title of Graphic Novel: _______________________________________________________________________________

Library Branch (for submission and prize pick-up):  _______________________________________________________

Email: __________________________________________________ Phone #: _______________________________

Photo / Creative Works Release

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE CREATIVE WORKS AND TO PHOTOGRAPH OR RECORD VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO

I ______________________________________ am 18 years or older.

(Name, please print)

I ______________________________________ am the parent or legal guardian of _____________________________.

(Name, please print)

I give my permission for the City and the University to reproduce creative works resulting from my (or my child’s) participation in the Graphic Novel Making Contest. I understand that the purpose is to promote the City of San José (and/or San José State University) and its services/programs. I give my permission with the following understanding: No compensation of any kind will be paid to me (or my child) at this time or in the future for the use of my (or my child’s) creative works. Permission is not required to take part in City or University programs.

I understand that the City of San José or San José State University may record via photo, video and/or audio the events or activity in which I am (or my child is) participating. I give my permission for the City and the University to use photographs, audio, and/or video of me (or my child) for the purpose of promoting the City of San José (and/or San José State University) and its services/programs. I give my permission with the following understanding: No compensation of any kind will be paid to me (or my child) at this time or in the future for the use of my (or my child’s) likeness or audio contributions. Permission is not required to take part in City or University events.

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