

San José Public Library

2024 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. First, second and third place winners in every age group (0-7, 8-9, 10-12, 13-17, 18+) will be awarded a prize; up to two additional honorable mention winners may be selected in each age group. All cash prizes will be awarded as gift cards.

Here's how to enter ...

- Create your own comic book/graphic novel with a maximum length of 8 pages, including the cover page. Do not staple pages or create a book. Paper entries should be paper clipped together.
- **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 awarded prizes.
- The contest is limited to amateur authors/illustrators only.
- Digital illustrations are acceptable as long as they are your original artwork. Use of computer-generated images (via A.I. tools or clip art) or copyrighted material will be deemed ineligible.
- Creators (of all age groups) should have limited assistance when it comes to the graphic novel they produce. Assistance should be limited to critiquing, feedback, proofreading, and spell checking.
- Consider submitting a photocopy or digital scan that is an accurate reflection of the original work. San José Public Library cannot guarantee the return of paper submissions.
- Submissions that are not appropriate for a general audience are ineligible for award.
- San José Public Library reserves the right to reproduce your work. You can republish your work through a different platform after the contest.
- Complete the **Graphic Novel Making Contest Entry Form**. **Entries submitted 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.
- Digital entries can be submitted on our website (see below) or emailed to graphicnovels@sjlibrary.org as a PNG, JPG, or PDF attachment. Digital entries must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM on Wednesday, July 31, 2024. Please attached the Entry Form as a separate page from your entry.
- Paper entries can be submitted to any operating San José Public Library location no later than end of business day on Wednesday, July 31, 2024.
- **There is a limit of one entry per contestant or co-authored group.**

Entries will be judged using a rubric scale covering the following: overall story, originality, creativity and illustration 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) in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

Winners will be announced during an In-Person Award Ceremony on Saturday, September 14, 2024.

For more information, including FAQ's and the judging criteria, please visit <http://www.sjpl.org/graphicnovels>

San José Public Library staff members are ineligible to participate.

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2024 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: _____

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) (Name, Age)

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.

Signature _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

