

When is Youth Art Month?

Youth Art Month (YAM) is recognized nationally in March.

Why should I do it?

Art teachers already know that art encourages the imagination of our students—a skill essential to their future. We value the opportunity to teach young people and feel that our students' accomplishments must be celebrated! YAM is the perfect opportunity to show off the magnitude of art to those who may not ordinarily notice. By celebrating YAM you let others know:

- Art education develops students' creative problem-solving and critical thinking abilities;
- Art education teaches sensitivity to beauty, order, and other expressive qualities;
- Art education gives students a deeper understanding of multicultural values and beliefs;
- Art education reinforces and brings to life what students learn in other subjects;
- Art education interrelates student learning in art production, art history, art criticism and aesthetics

How do I celebrate?

There are many ways to celebrate YAM! The most important part is highlighting your students making and learning about art. You can do this by:

- Getting important local leaders to sign proclamations and endorsements for YAM
- Planning art exhibits and events during March to show off your student' artwork to your community
- Contacting local news media (newspapers, blogs, radio and TV stations) to cover events
- Creating special materials with your students about YAM (posters, buttons, t-shirts, hats, stickers, etc.)

Where can I go to get more information?

<http://www.vaea.org/youth-art-month.html>

What's the difference between an endorsement and a proclamation?

The YAM Endorsement/Proclamation can be found on the website mentioned above. It is the exact same wording. The only difference is that only Mayors and Governors can proclaim. Others leaders (such as senators, delegates, superintendents, school board members, supervisors, principals, and teachers) can sign an endorsement which recognizes the value of art education.

Who is running YAM?

The Council for Art Education (CFAE) administers YAM at the national level. The Virginia YAM committee (one member from each Virginia Art Education Association, or VAEA, region) oversees YAM at the state level. Jess Beach is our Virginia YAM Chair on the VAEA Board. Her contact information is jessicabeach4@gmail.com. Each district is responsible for managing their own YAM celebrations and submitting a book recording the events.

What is the history of YAM?

YAM started in 1961 through a partnership of the Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc. (ACMI) and National Art Education Association (NAEA)

What is the Flag Competition?

Each year Virginia submits a 3x5' flag to the CFAE display during the NAEA Convention. Flag entry forms can be found at the above mentioned website. Any student in a K-12 Virginia school can participate. Entries must be postmarked by December 14th and delivered to Jess Beach, 550 Alwington Blvd., Warrenton, VA 20186

What is the YAM Book?

Each year counties and districts are invited to submit a book as a record of their YAM celebrations. The YAM Committee then judges the books and announces the winners at the Fall VAEA Conference. It is from these district books that the state book is made. The Virginia state book then goes on to compete nationally. Each book should focus on 4 topics: Proclamations/Endorsements, Promotional Opportunities, Events/Exhibits, and Special Materials. Books must also include the documentation report found on the above mentioned website. There is no page requirement for submissions. Books may be submitted digitally to jessicabeach4@gmail.com or in hard copy form to Jess Beach, 550 Alwington Blvd., Warrenton, VA 20186. Books are due June 14th.