

French American Friendship Contest 2024

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the 80th anniversary of the Normandy landings*



FRENCH AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP CONTEST

*To celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lafayette's last trip to the United States and the 80th anniversary of the Normandy landings, the Consulate General of France in Boston and the Richard Lounsbury Foundation are launching the **2024 French American Friendship Contest**.*

Through the creation of a work, high school students will be called upon to reflect on the very essence of Franco-American relations, in its history and contemporary cultural expressions.

***Open to French learners from American high schools in New England**, it will allow three groups of students and their teachers to leave for France in June 2024. This itinerant journey will lead them in the footsteps of Lafayette, from Paris to Normandy, from where he embarked for New York in 1824 and where, 120 years later, will disembark American troops to liberate France.*

New England has a very special relationship with France and the French-speaking world. A neighboring land of Québec, the custodian of an important Franco-American heritage, it has always been the crucible of the strong ties that unite France and the United States; Through the names of surnames, towns, streets and so many other designations these historical links remain alive and are part of the daily life of the communities of the region.

Yet despite the attachment that many ascribe to this heritage new generations are rarely aware of these links and existing connections. It is their own history which unfortunately is often unknown to them.

By participating in **the 2024 French American Friendship Contest**, high school students will be able to approach historical topics in a way that is distinct from the one they are usually accustomed to. By calling on them to choose and reflect on a particular aspect of Franco-American history and then to translate it into a creative form of their choice they will undertake a very personal process. By documenting themselves to prepare their projects thanks to the resources that will be offered as part of the competition they will expand their knowledge of these key periods, and of the still-vibrant existence of intense transatlantic relations between our two countries.

Finally, conveyed through the French language this research and the implementation of their project will allow them to directly apply their knowledge of French in an original approach.

In June 2024, **the celebration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day** will be an event of great importance in France; many official commemorations will take place in Paris as well as in Normandy. This symbolic anniversary will be an opportunity to look back on our history, celebrate heroes and thank our allies.

Every year, commemorations are already held but American youth are traditionally absent. Yet, the soldiers who boarded the ships to liberate our country were often very young. Their courage and sense of duty deserve special celebration and the participation in 2024 of the young French-speaking high school students from New England who won this competition will take on its full meaning.

Thereby, the **2024 French American Friendship Contest** will provide significant visibility for the commemorations taking place in 2024. The 200th anniversary of Lafayette's last voyage and the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings have a very important significance and symbolic significance not only in the history of transatlantic relations but also more generally in an international context still strongly marked by conflicts both in Europe and in the Middle East.

By celebrating the past, the 2024 Franco-American Friendship Contest will inspire new generations to think about the future and honor America's youth.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

- The contest is open to all **high school students learning French** (grade 9 and up) from public and private schools in Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont;
- Groups of three high school students necessarily from the same school consisting of students from the same **grade or from different grades (between grades 9 and 12)**;
- There is no minimum level of proficiency in French; however, the three students in each group must all **take French-language instruction** in their school.

HOW TO MAKE A SELECTION?

To participate high school students will form groups of 3 people.

The **first phase** of application will be internal to each institution; this pre-selection will be done in three stages:

1. Submission of project presentation notes by the various groups.
2. Selection by the committee of each school of 3 projects that will be produced.
3. Final selection of the project that will represent the school.

>> One project per school.

The **second phase** will allow the projects of the different schools to be compared and the **15 finalists to be selected**.

Out of all the applications received 15 groups will be selected by the services of the Consulate General of France in Boston.

The **third selection phase** will consist of a **presentation of their project to the final jury**, made up of Franco-American personalities.

The final will take place at the Residence de France in Boston.

This will be followed by a reception in honor of the finalists during which the results will be announced.

One project per institution

1st Phase: selection within each high school

Step 1: Submission of project presentation notes by each group of applicants
Selection of the 3 projects that will be produced

Step 2: **Production of the 3 projects**

Step 3: **Selection of the project that will represent the institution**

15 finalists for New England

2nd Phase: Selection of finalists

Study of all the applications received by the services of the Consulate General of France in Boston

Final selection (15 finalists)

Grand finale at the Résidence de France

3rd Phase: Final

Each group presents its project to a jury made up of Franco-American personalities

The 3 best projects will be chosen as winners

CALENDAR & REGISTRATION

Registration of participating schools: before 08 December 2023

Selection, by the school, of the 3 projects that will be produced, then production time of the projects (2 to 3 months)

Final selection of the project for each school: before March 30, 2024

>> Each school then forwards its winning project to the Services of the Consulate General of France in Boston

Study of all the applications by the Consulate and selection of the 15 finalists:
between 01 and 30 April 2024

Transmission of the 15 applications to the members of the final jury: **April 30, 2024**

Grand finale at the Residence de France and **Announcement of results: May 8,**

Travel to France: from June 1 to 7, 2024

School registration is mandatory.

Google Form Link: <https://forms.gle/rEAEfXMJhfisSHnD6>

DOCUMENTS & PROJECTS

1. General Expectations

The contest focuses on the **realization of an artistic project illustrating the friendship that unites France and the United States.**

High school students will base themselves on a particular aspect of Franco-American history and transcribe it into a creative form of their choice. They will be inspired by shared historical facts and/or common contemporary cultural expressions.

The artistic project must demonstrate that the students have explored the ties between France and the United States, reflecting historical, cultural, or symbolic aspects that convey Franco-American friendship.

The art forms that can be used for the project are as follows with the understanding that several forms can be used simultaneously in the same project:

- Graphic arts (painting, drawing, etc.)
- Photography
- Digital Arts
- Sculpture & Installations
- Handicraft
- Comics
- Music
- Writing
- Performing arts (theatre, dance, circus, etc.)
- Audiovisual & Cinema

2. Pre-selection at the school level

For the first stage, groups of three high school students will submit a short presentation note of the project they wish to produce, which can be illustrated with first sketches of the project. It must also include an argument on the inclusion of the project in the objectives of the competition.

To select the three projects that will be produced, the **relevance of the proposal** and its **feasibility** (cost, completion time, etc.) will be assessed.

3. Selection criteria observed at each phase, once projects have been completed

Note: Each work produced will be accompanied by a **notice written in French and English** which will explain the approach and intentions in relation to the objectives of the contest.

The final selection of the project that will represent each school and then the selection of the fifteen finalists will observe the following scoring criteria:

1. Response to the expectations of the competition: 8 points
2. Formal quality of production: 8 points
3. Originality of the approach: 4 points

4. Additional modalities for the final jury

Each of the fifteen finalist groups will present an **oral presentation in French** of their project followed by questions with the members of the jury (10 minutes in total).

This oral examination will be marked out of 10 points and will complement the score also out of 10 points given to the result of the project, and which will consider the same criteria as those set out above (originality, formal quality, relevance).

If you have any questions, you can contact the Cultural Service of the Consulate General of France in Boston:

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