

*Tri-State Labor Day
Dan Ezzio Memorial Art Contest*

PROSPECTUS

WHO: Open to all students grades 9 through 12 (regardless of artistic abilities)

WHAT: Create an illustration based on the theme:

“What Labor Day Means to Me”

Entries should interpret the theme to include illustrations indicative of all races, cultures, and genders, and/or a variety of occupations/professions. Please see the attached “The History of Labor Day” for more information about what Labor Day is.

PARTICIPANTS:

There are two categories – Poster and Button. The winning poster design will be used to advertise the 2024 Tri-State Labor Day Parade. The winning button design will be used on the Labor Day Button. *Graphic design and hand-rendered artwork are both eligible for submission.*

All entries must include “**Stars & Stripes,**” the year “**2024,**” “**Labor Day,**” and clearly represent **the diversity of our society.** Lettering should be kept to a minimum. Diameter for the circular design of the button should be no smaller than 3” and no larger than 9”. The design of the poster should be no larger than 11” x 17”.

AWARDS:

There will be six awards given out – three for the Poster Design and three for the Button Design.

1st Place for each category - **\$500 & Plaque**

2nd Place for each category - **\$250**

3rd Place for each category - **\$125**

Winners will be invited to ride on the Philadelphia Council AFL-CIO’s float during the Labor Day Parade and enjoy in the festivities following the parade. **Winners will be required to sign a “Permission to use Artwork” form.** Students may only win one prize per year.

DELIVERY OF WORK:

*****Deadline: 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30, 2024*****

Teachers, please select and submit the best pieces of work for each category to:

Philadelphia Federation of Teachers
Attention: Erik Fleming
1816 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103

*****Each entry must be labeled “Labor Day Art Contest” on the back with the following:*****

Teacher’s Name, Phone Number for Teacher, School Name, Student’s Name and Grade.

JUDGING:

A committee consisting of representatives of the Tri-State Labor Day Parade Committee, Philadelphia Federation of Teachers, and the School District of Philadelphia will select the winners. A member of the committee will notify the student winners by the end of May.

CONTACT PERSON:

If you have any questions, please contact Erik Fleming, Art Contest Chairperson at the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers: 215-587-6738 or efleming@pft.org.

The History of Labor Day

*There are many misperceptions as to what Labor Day is and why we celebrate it.
Labor Day is much more than spending a day at the beach or having a barbeque.
Please review this information and keep it in mind as you work on your poster/button design.*

Labor Day: How it Came About - What it Means

Labor Day, the first Monday in September, is a creation of the labor movement and is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. *It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well being of our country.*

The First Labor Day

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. The Central Labor Union held its second Labor Day holiday just a year later, on September 5, 1883.

In 1884 the first Monday in September was selected as the holiday, as originally proposed, and the Central Labor Union urged similar organizations in other cities to follow the example of New York and celebrate a "workingmen's holiday" on that date. The idea spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was celebrated in many industrial centers of the country.

A Nationwide Holiday

The form that the observance and celebration of Labor Day should take were outlined in the first proposal of the holiday — a street parade to exhibit to the public "the strength and esprit de corps of the trade and labor organizations" of the community, followed by a festival for the recreation and amusement of the workers and their families. This became the pattern for the celebrations of Labor Day. Speeches by prominent men and women were introduced later, as more emphasis was placed upon the economic and civic significance of the holiday. Still later, by a resolution of the American Federation of Labor convention of 1909, the Sunday preceding Labor Day was adopted as Labor Sunday and dedicated to the spiritual and educational aspects of the labor movement.

The vital force of labor added materially to the highest standard of living and the greatest production the world has ever known and has brought us closer to the realization of our traditional ideals of economic and political democracy. It is appropriate, therefore, that the nation pay tribute on Labor Day to the creator of so much of the nation's strength, freedom, and leadership — **THE AMERICAN WORKER.**

Adapted from the United States Department of Labor's website: <http://www.dol.gov/OPA/ABOUTDOL/LABORDAY.HTM>