

September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month, and we need your help celebrating! The Lakeland Public Libraries invite you to design our next library card. The selected artworks will be featured on official library cards for use throughout Polk County.

Dates:

Deadline for submissions: **Monday, August 31, 2026**

Winners chosen and contacted: **Friday, September 4, 2026**

Winner announced: **Tuesday, September 8, 2026**

Library cards available for distribution: **End of September 2026**

Participant Groups:

Children ages 3-12

Teens ages 13-17

Adults ages 18+

One winner will be chosen from each age group, with their design featured on a library card, and will be recognized on the Lakeland Public Library's social media accounts and digital newsletters.

Eligibility:

The Library Card Design Contest is open to current library cardholders only. Participants, or guardians if under the age of 18, must have an existing library card or sign up for a library card. See our [Get a Library Card](#) page to learn how to get a library card today.

Entry Rules:

- Submissions must be larger than 3.75" x 2.45".
- All submissions must be accompanied by the completed entry form. Forms are available at any Lakeland Public Library location and on our website.
- Artwork can be handmade or digital but not AI-generated. Digital submissions must have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi and submitted in JPEG or PNG format.
- Artwork must be 2D for printing purposes.
- Artwork can be landscape or portrait orientation.
- Submitted artwork must be inoffensive and appropriate for all ages to be considered for judging. Artwork that is found to be offensive or inappropriate for the contest will not be considered.
- Submitted artwork must be original, previously unpublished, and free of copyright restrictions. Copyrighted graphics and AI-generated images will not be accepted for judging.
- The deadline to submit entries is close of business August 31, 2026. Late entries will not be accepted.
- Submit entries in person at any of the three Lakeland Library locations or email to cassandra.walters-shantal@lakelandgov.net.

IF AN ENTRY AND ARTWORK DO NOT COMPLY WITH THESE ENTRY RULES, THEY WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

Judging:

Library staff will judge submissions and select winners based on creativity and artistic quality.

AFTER YOU SUBMIT:

- The winner(s) will be contacted and announced by September 8, 2026.
- The winning design(s) will be used as special limited-edition library cards and may also be used on library card promotional materials, including posters, bags, bookmarks, forms and flyers and on the library's website.
- All rights to the artwork will belong to the Lakeland Public Libraries.
- Winning artwork may need to be modified to comply with City of Lakeland branding guidelines.

Lakeland Public Library
Library Card Design Contest

Official Entry Form

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____ Age _____

Library Card Number _____

Please read this application carefully before signing below:

I grant the Lakeland Public Libraries the exclusive rights to freely reproduce, distribute, and publicly display, in whole or in part, any entry that I submit to the Library Card Design Contest. This includes the use of the names and likeness of individuals represented in the entry design.

I confirm that before submitting the Contest entry, I have obtained all permissions required for the Lakeland Public Library to exercise the rights outlined in this document.

By signing below, I confirm that I have read and agree to the rules and stipulations outlined in this and all support documents.

Contestant Signature _____

All contestants under the age of 18 must have the bottom portion completed by a parent or legal guardian.

Parent or Legal Guardian Release:

I, (please print) _____, am the parent or legal

guardian of Contestant (please print) _____.

My signature on this application confirms my agreement to the entry rules on the Contestant's behalf.

Parent or Legal Guardian signature: _____

Official Template

To be sure your image fits, keep your design within the dashed portion of the library card template.

Artist's Name: _____

