



CHUCK BAIRD

ART COMPETITION:

STUDENT PACKET

The Official Rules

- To participate, students must attend a school with a current ASLHS chapter on campus.
- Your submission should use photography to capture the expressive, cinematic, and deeply visual nature of Visual Vernacular (VV), a style of storytelling rooted in Deaf Culture.
- The participant can submit a single shot, double shot, or three shot sequence depicting their “message”.
- The entry must be entirely of the student’s own work. Clipart or images taken from the internet are not acceptable.
- All art pieces must be the original work of the student and cannot be derived from any pre-existing or third-party designs, trademarks, or copyrighted images.
- The art can be created in the following categories: digital, black and white, color.
- All entries will become the property of the American Sign Language Honor Society. By submitting an entry, each student agrees all intellectual property rights in the art piece are forfeited and deemed the sole property of the American Sign Language Honor Society.
- The decisions of the Selection Committee will be final.
- Entries must be submitted by **November 21st, 2025, 11:59 pm EST.**

Membership

For a student to participate in this competition, one ASL teacher at your school must be a member of the **American Sign Language Teachers Association (ASLTA)** with the **American Sign Language Honor Society (ASLHS)** add-on membership. This same teacher must also serve as the sponsor of the ASLHS chapter. You do not have to be that teacher’s student to qualify, but you need their support to participate in this exciting competition.

Due Date

All entries are due by **November 21st, 2025.**

Judging Criteria

The American Sign Language Honor Society Committee will evaluate all entries based on the following criteria:

- **Visual Representation of VV** – Do the image(s) clearly capture elements of VV (classifiers, gestures, facial expressions, movement, etc.)?
- **Creativity and Interpretation** – Is the concept unique, engaging, or insightful/ Does it reflect personal or cultural understanding of ASL?
- **Composition and Visual Impact** – Is the photograph composed in a way that supports the theme? Does it grab attention and tell a story?
- **Emotional Expression** – Do the image(s) convey mood, emotion, or intensity (key parts of NMMs and ASL storytelling)
- **Artist's Statement** – Does the written explanation clearly connect the image(s) to ASL and VV concepts?

Registration Fees

Students are not required to pay to enter the competition. The chapter is required to pay a one-time entry fee of \$25 for the entire chapter.

Submission Format

Entries (images and written statement) should be submitted by each student individually through [Padlet](#) (link). This QR code is **CLICKABLE**. You do not need to create a Padlet account to enter.

Video to help you navigate Padlet

[How do I upload something to Padlet from my desktop?](#) (link)

Prizes & Certificates

Certificates will be sent electronically to the teachers and distributed to the students. All schools and students will receive a certificate of participation.

- Entries whose works are considered finalist will receive a seal with their respective place.
- Entries whose works are considered in the top 10% will receive a SILVER seal.

- Monetary prizes are as follows:
 - **First place: \$100.00**
 - **Second place: \$75.00**
 - **Third place: \$50.00**

Winning Entries

Winning entries will be posted on the ASL Honor Society's website by mid-December.

Any student under 18 years of age must obtain permission from a parent or guardian before their entry is posted. This information appears on the student's entry form.

Competition Contact & Address

Melissa Ibanez and **Michelle Norman** are the coordinators of this year's Chuck Baird Memorial Art Competition. Questions may be sent to aslhs.gradship@aslta.org or aslhs.pr@aslta.org.