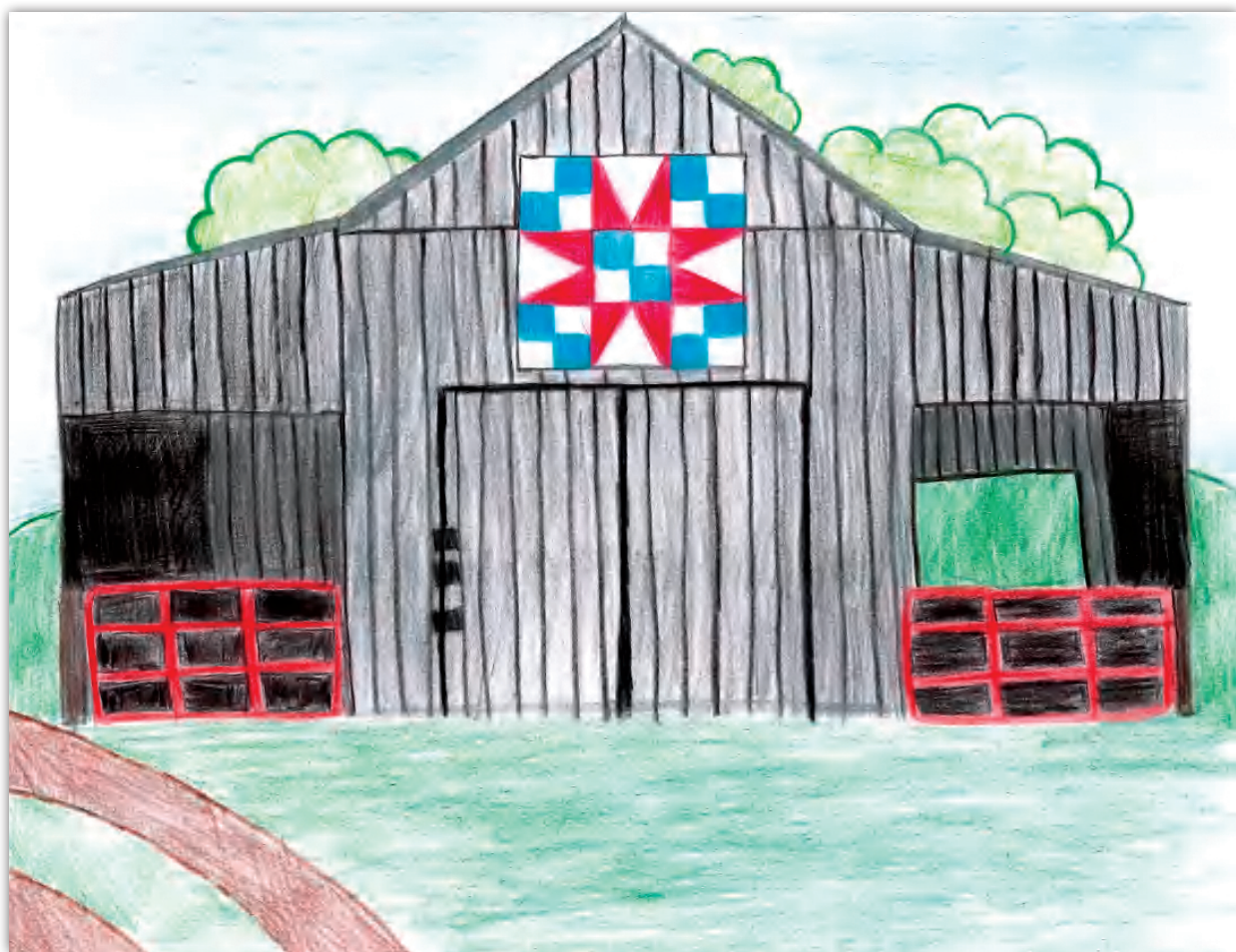




I MY KY COUNTY

KACo Art Contest

All Kentucky students in grades K-8 are invited to enter the 2026 KACo Art Contest and let us know why you love your county!



—2025 First Place Winner—

Kylee Crowe | Grade 6 | Estill County | Estill County Middle School

"In my drawing, a barn with a quilt square from the Estill County Quilt Square Trail stands as a symbol of my Appalachian roots. These quilt patterns represent the strong women who raised me, the farms and back roads that shaped me and the dear heritage I carry forward. I love my county because it is more than just where I live, it is who I am."



KACo Art Contest Rules

Eligibility

- The contest is open to all Kentucky students in **kindergarten through 8th grade**.

Artwork Guidelines

- Artwork must depict a scene showing **why you love your county**.
 - *Tip: Think about the landmarks, public events, natural areas, industries, traditions and experiences that make your county special.*
- Each submission must be **original artwork** completed during 2026.
- AI-generated images are not eligible.
- Artwork must be in a **horizontal/landscape orientation (11" wide x 8.5" tall)**.

Judging Criteria

- Technical skill: The artwork must display artistic skill in painting, drawing, mixed media or digital art.
- Creativity: The artwork must be original in its expression of a personal vision or voice.
- Artist's statement: Along with the artwork, each student is required to **submit a brief statement (2-4 sentences)** that explains the scene depicted and why they love their county.
 - *Tip: Tell us about your piece. What special memory, place, person or tradition inspired your artwork? How does your artwork show how you feel about your county?*

Deadline and Submission Requirements

- Submissions will be accepted **Aug. 24-Oct. 16**.
- Students must submit a high-resolution image of their artwork online at www.kaco.org.
- Only one submission per student is allowed.

Prizes

The first-place winner will receive \$250, second place will receive \$100, and \$50 will be awarded for third place. In addition, these winners will be invited to attend the KACo annual conference in Lexington. Overall winners and grade-level winners will be featured in *County Line* magazine and the 2027 KACo calendar.

If you have any questions, contact KACo Member Engagement Manager Sydney Blodgett at sydney.blodgett@kaco.org.

