

2026 High School Poster Competition Rules

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

NOTE: Posters must be received **Monday, March 23, 2026**, by 4:00 p.m. at the SAE Detroit Section office located at 28535 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 200, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48334. If you plan to deliver your poster in person, please call the office at (248) 324-4445 ext. 3 to verify someone will be there to receive it.

1. Each student is limited to one entry. The competition is open to all full-time high school students within the Metropolitan Detroit area, including Ann Arbor, Jackson, and Toledo.
2. Computer graphics are acceptable. **Student MUST include a typed paragraph** with a description of the process, techniques, and software used in creating the image(s). **Paragraph must be attached to the back of poster.** Artwork may be, but is not limited to, any of the following media: poster paints, including tempera; watercolors; charcoal; acrylics; "collage" color applications using flat, solid colors; markers; chalk; ink; and/or oil pastels.
3. Completed entries **must** be 18" x 24" in size and **MOUNTED** on foam board or corrugated plastic material strong enough to stand on an easel and support itself (test to ensure your artwork can support itself by placing it on the floor and lean it up against a vertical wall; if it does not fall over or bend over and block artwork, then it is good to use).
4. To mail the posters, visit any local art store to purchase a flat mailing package. DO NOT use tubes for mailing because required supporting material is rigid and cannot be bent.
5. The SAE Detroit Section logo (below) and the theme, **Move Mobility Forward** MUST BE included on each poster and not modified in any way including legibility, colors, and aspect ratio. Please contact stephanie.alexander@sae-detroit.org for the logo. Please note there is a difference between the SAE Detroit Section logo and SAE International logo (International logo is not allowed).
6. See below for SAE Detroit Section logo – MUST BE EXACTLY AS SHOWN OR WILL BE DISQUALIFIED. The logo may be scaled but must be exactly as shown below in legibility, colors, and aspect ratio:

7. Posters with spelling errors will be disqualified. Double-check your work.
8. A graphic, slogan, logo or phrase cannot be used if proprietary to any firm or corporation and should not pertain to a specific product (e.g., do not include automotive manufacturer name, logo, vehicle model name, vehicle trim line, specific automotive device, or specific brand name anywhere on your poster, images, or graphics).
9. SAE Detroit Section will recruit an unbiased panel of representatives from the automotive and academic arenas to judge the posters. Teachers will be notified who the winners are by email.
10. The top ten posters will be on display at various SAE Detroit Section events and at SAE International WCX™ World Congress Experience April 14-16. In addition, the top ten winners will be recognized in an upcoming 2026 issue of *Supercharger*, SAE Detroit Section's online publication. The top three posters will be recognized in the 2027 publicity materials.
11. The following criteria will be considered in determining the winning posters:

Originality: Theme idea; color combinations; composition of all the elements incorporated; freshness of aspect; design or style; the power of thought or constructive imagination and originality of design and composition.

Artistic Excellence: Technical execution of the medium used; clarity of composition; well-integrated typography; superiority in execution; skillfulness; mastery; outstanding quality and neatness; and communication.

Aesthetics: Focus on tastefulness; beauty; pleasing appearance; harmony of all the elements including composition; color and typography. How well do the elements and colors blend together? Does it have appeal? Does it grab one's attention?

Relativity to theme: How well does the artwork communicate the theme?
Is the SAE Detroit Section (see rule #5) logo on the poster? Is the theme illustrated and/or included?
Is the theme concept well developed?

12. All entrants retain full proprietary and commercial rights to their posters. However, the SAE Detroit Section and event sponsors reserve the following rights and privileges:
 - 1) Retain possession of the top ten winning posters for up to one year from the submission date for promotional use
 - 2) Reproduce the posters in local and national publications
 - 3) Grant permission for media outlets (including social media, magazines, and television) to reproduce the posters as news items

If you would like your poster returned, please note this on the final line at the bottom of your paragraph on the back of the poster.

- 13. Posters (other than the top ten) can be picked up at the SAE Detroit Section office after Monday, June 1, 2026. Posters not picked up by Monday, June 22, 2026, will be discarded unless prior arrangements have been made.
- 14. Winners of the top ten posters will receive their award through either a check or an electronic transfer.
 - 1st Place - \$1,500
 - 2nd Place - \$1,000
 - 3rd Place - \$750
 - 4th - 10th Place - \$100

Attach the completed readable label below and the descriptive paragraph to the back of each poster. Please **do not** put student's name or school on the front of the poster. Form must be filled out completely.

ATTACH FORM TO BACK OF POSTER		
Student Name:		
Student Phone:	Email:	
School Name:		
School Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Teacher Name:		
Teacher Phone:		
Teacher Email:		