

Call for Artists: 2027 Featured Wildlife Artist

The Friends of the Tampa Bay National Wildlife Refuges is looking for a 2027 Featured Artist.

Applications are due by **December 15, 2026**.

About The Friends of the Tampa Bay National Wildlife Refuges

We're a volunteer nonprofit that supports three critical wildlife refuges in Tampa Bay: Egmont Key, Passage Key, and the Pinellas Refuges. Most of these islands are closed to visitors to protect nesting birds, and so we believe that art is one of the best ways people get to see them. Please learn more about the refuges and our mission at www.tampabayrefuges.org.

Featured Artist Program Overview

The term runs for the 2027 calendar year, January 1 through December 31. Our selected Featured Artist will receive:

- Guided boat trips to refuge sites for your work
- Promotion on our website, social media, newsletter, and outreach materials
- Opportunities for artist talks and exhibits with us
- A free one-year Family Membership to the Friends of the Tampa Bay National Wildlife Refuges
- Other collaboration opportunities

In return, you'll be expected to:

- Create original work inspired by your refuge visits
- Link to tampabayrefuges.org from your website, and keep our handouts available in your studio or at your shows

- Credit the Friends and the refuges when you show, sell, or post artwork related to the Tampa Bay National Wildlife Refuges

Compensation and rights: This is an unpaid role. Featured Artists keep full copyright to any artworks they produce, and the Friends may use selected images to promote the Featured Artist Program and the Tampa Bay National Wildlife Refuges.

Who can apply

Artists in any medium, age 18 or older, living in or spending significant time in the Tampa Bay area.

How to apply

Email one PDF to **joe@tampabayrefuges.org** by **December 15, 2026** with:

1. Your contact info and website or social links
2. A short biography
3. A brief description of how you envision working in your preferred medium to draw inspiration from the Tampa Bay National Wildlife Refuges to promote the wildlife and protected wild spaces in this area.
4. Sample images of recent work, labeled with title, medium, and year

A Friends board committee will choose the 2027 Featured Artist by the end of December 2026, and we'll publicly announce our 2027 Featured Artist in early January 2027.

Please email any questions to joe@tampabayrefuges.org.