



The Art of Math Challenge 2026

THE CHALLENGE

Students in grades 1–12 take on the Art of Math Challenge in teams of three or more. Each submission consists of a 3D model of one of three selected artworks from the Barnes collection and a written statement. The competition culminates with a display of models at the Barnes's PECO Free First Sunday Family Day on May 3, 2026. Winners will be announced, prizes will be awarded, and participants will be celebrated throughout the day! See registration information and important dates below. We'll email you an Art of Math Challenge guidebook after you complete your registration.

DELIVERABLES

- A 3D model of one of the three selected artworks from the Barnes collection
- A written statement describing the math strategies used to make the model
- A photograph of the model

ARTWORKS



From left: [Unidentified artist. *Landscape–Train*, 19th century](#); [Unidentified artist. *Canal and Houses*, c. 1840](#); [Henri Matisse. *Interior with Two Figures, Open Window*, 1921–22](#)

TO REGISTER, [CLICK HERE](#) OR SCAN THE QR CODE:



IMPORTANT DATES

January 30, 2026 Registration Deadline

April 10, 2026 Digital Submission Deadline

April 13–17, 2026 Model Drop-Off at the Barnes

May 3, 2026 Art of Math Challenge at PECO Free First Sunday Family Day



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE ART OF MATH CHALLENGE?

Students in grade 1–12 are eligible to participate. Teachers must register their students as a group. Each group must have three or more students, and all students should be in the same grade, as judging is based on grade band. Teachers may register a maximum of six groups.

WHAT IS PECO FREE FIRST SUNDAY FAMILY DAY?

The Barnes offers free admission and family programming on the first Sunday of every month. On May 3, 2026, the Barnes will host an Art of Math–themed family day with musical entertainment, a display of qualifying models, and award ceremonies celebrating participants throughout the day.

HOW IS THE COMPETITION JUDGED?

There are two categories: Creative Math Strategy and Artistic Design. The Creative Math Strategy award is judged by Barnes staff and Philadelphia educators. The Artistic Design award is decided by a guest artist. Models will be on display in the Annenberg Court at the PECO Free First Sunday Family Day event. All Art of Math models will also be featured on our online student art gallery after the event.

WHAT IF I HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?

Contact us at education@barnesfoundation.org for more information.