

2026 DML LIBRARY CARD Design Contest



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SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED: May 1-July 1, 2026

WINNERS ANNOUNCED: July 31, 2026

In conjunction with the Summer Reading Challenge and National Library Card Sign Up Month, Dayton Metro Library is hosting a **Library Card Design Contest!** Patrons can showcase their creativity by designing a unique Library card. Winning designs will be featured as an official, limited edition Library card, available Sept 1-30, 2026 in all Library Branches.



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Eligibility:

- The contest is open to all Montgomery County residents or anyone attending a Montgomery County School
Kids (Ages 0-12) **Teens** (Ages 13-17) **Adults** (Ages 18+)
- Only one entry per participant.
- Submissions must be the original work of the entrant and may not include AI or computer-generated elements.

Theme:

- This theme is: “Unearth A Story”
- Create designs that reflect the joy of reading, the Dayton community, information and inspiration, or another design that is appropriate for a general audience

Submission Requirements:

Design Format:

- Artwork must be submitted on the template provided by the Library.
- Accepted file formats for digital submissions: **JPEG** or **PNG**.
- Designs should be 300 dpi resolution to ensure high print quality.

Physical Submissions:

- If submitting a physical design, it must be on the template.
- Use any medium (e.g., colored pencils, markers, digital art) as long as it is flat and scannable.

Two Ways to Enter!

- All entries must be submitted by **July 1, 2026**.
- Late submissions will not be accepted
- Submit paper entries at the Ask Me Desk of any Dayton Metro Library location.
- Or using the submission form at DaytonMetroLibrary.org/library-card-design-contest

**SCAN
FOR DETAILS!**



Judging Criteria:

Entries will be judged based on the following criteria:

- **Creativity:** Originality and artistic expression.
- **Relevance to Theme:** How well the design reflects the theme “Unearth A Story”
- **Visual Impact:** Overall appeal and clarity of design.
- **Usability:** How well the design will function as a Library card (e.g., readability, appropriate use of space).

Judging Process:

- Dayton Metro Library staff will review all entries.
- There will be one winner from each age category: kids, teens, adults.
- Winners will be announced on **July 31, 2026**.

Prizes:

- Winners will be invited to participate in an acknowledgement ceremony at their home Branch.
- Winners may receive a small token of appreciation for their entry.

Contest Rules:

- All designs must be original and created by the participant.
- Designs should not contain copyrighted material, offensive language, inappropriate images, or AI-generated components.
- By entering the contest, participants grant the Library the right to use, reproduce, and publish their designs for promotional purposes.
- The Library reserves the right to make minor adjustments to the winning design to fit printing specifications.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For questions or additional information, please contact **Allison Knight** at AKnight@DaytonMetroLibrary.org or 937-496-8507 or **Claudine Bennett** at CBennett@DaytonMetroLibrary.org or 937-496-8586. We can't wait to see your creative designs!

2026 DML LIBRARY CARD *Design Contest*

Name: _____ Legal Guardian Name (if under age 18): _____

Address: _____ Home Branch: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Age Category: Kids (Ages 0-12) Teens (Ages 13-17) Adults (Ages 18+)



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LIBRARY CARD (actual size is 3.375" x 2.125")

LIBRARY CARD KEY TAG

A kid, teen, and adult winner will be selected. SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED: May 1 - July 1, 2026 – no late submissions will be accepted.

(actual size is 1.125" x 2.625")