



## 2026 Somerset County Teen Arts Festival

# TEEN ARTS CALENDAR & IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Please add these dates to your personal and professional calendars

DATE	DEADLINE
December 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2025	School Participation Form Due
February 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2026	School District Invoice Form & School Check or Purchase Order Due <i>Please let Commission Staff know if payments will be delayed. We understand that every school's finance department works differently.</i>
April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2026	<b>THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE DUE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>ALL</u> SUBMISSION FORMS</li> <li>• Visual Art Images for Video Critique by Professional Artists</li> <li>• Creative Writing Entries (<i>see guidelines for submission requirements</i>)</li> <li>• Film Entries (<i>see guidelines for submission requirements</i>)</li> <li>• Release Forms for Visual Art, Creative Writing, and Film Students Only</li> <li>• Teen Arts Cover Art Contest Submissions</li> </ul>
May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2026	Final Paperwork Packet Due <i>(Includes Bus Schedule, Student Nametag Form, Demographics Form, and Student &amp; Chaperone Roster List)</i>
Monday, May 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2026	Visual Art Hanging at RVCC Art Gallery <i>(School Coordinators are responsible for hanging student artwork. Additional information and guidelines for hanging student artwork will be provided)</i>
Tuesday, May 19 <sup>th</sup> , 2026	<b>FESTIVAL DAY AT RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE</b>

- Performing and exhibiting students must be 13 to 19 years old.
- Student release forms are only required for Creative Writing, Film, and Visual Art submissions.
- We will try to accommodate all submissions, but due to time constraints any applications received after the April 1<sup>st</sup> deadline cannot be guaranteed a performance time or exhibition space.
- Video critiques are offered for Visual Arts entries only. Students requesting a video critique on the Visual Arts Submission Form will receive a short, personalized video by a professional artist providing constructive feedback. To receive a critique, digital images of student work must be submitted by April 1<sup>st</sup>. See Visual Art Guidelines for more details.
- Creative Writing entries must be submitted as Word documents. Commission Staff will read all submissions. School Coordinators will be contacted if any submissions are flagged for themes that raise concern for the student's safety. If no reply is received within two weeks of contact regarding the flagged work, the piece may be omitted from the Anthology.
- Film entries may be submitted as unlisted YouTube videos, on a flash drive, through online services such as WeTransfer, or through Google Drive. If sharing files through Google Drive, allow access to anyone with the link and share the link with [somctyculture@gmail.com](mailto:somctyculture@gmail.com)

**Questions? Concerns? Contact [CulturalHeritage@somersetcountynj.gov](mailto:CulturalHeritage@somersetcountynj.gov) or (908) 231-7022**

Return completed forms to [CulturalHeritage@somersetcountynj.gov](mailto:CulturalHeritage@somersetcountynj.gov) OR  
Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission, P.O. Box 3000, 20 Grove Street, Somerville, NJ 08876