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NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL YOUTH PROGRAMS INSPIRE CHILDREN

Washington, DC [March 2, 2016] – The National Cherry Blossom Festival's youth education programs teach the importance of the gift of trees from Tokyo to Washington, DC and inspire the next generation who will enjoy the nation's greatest springtime celebration for years to come. Youth programs promote cross-cultural understanding, environmental stewardship, and international friendship, all messages surrounding the symbolic 1912 gift of trees.

The **Youth Art Contest** and **Community Art Show**, coordinated in partnership with the [DC Arts & Humanities Education Collaborative](#) is open to all DC public and charter school students in grades K-12. This year's artwork will celebrate 50 years of kite flying on the National Mall and honor the National Park Service's centennial.

The public can view the students' creativity at the Community Art Show at [Pepco Edison Place Gallery](#) from March 22 – April 19, Tuesday through Friday from noon until 4:00pm. A panel of judges selects a first, second, and third place winner in four grade categories. The Youth Art Contest and Community Art Show is supported by Pepco Edison Place Gallery, and media partners WPGC 95.5 and El Zol 107.9.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival has enhanced its website's [Blossom Kids](#) section, a way for children to learn about the Festival and cherry blossom trees through fun and educational activities. Blossom Kids is divided into three sections: **Explore**, **Create**, and **Play**. Among the offerings, children find origami instructions, kite-themed activities, coloring pages, word puzzles, matching games, dynamic presentations about the lifecycle of a cherry blossom tree, and more.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is the nation's greatest springtime celebration. The 2016 Festival, March 20 – April 17, includes three spectacular weeks and four weekends of events featuring diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit. Visit nationalcherryblossomfestival.org or call 877.44.BLOOM for more information and find us on [Facebook](#) (CherryBlossomFestival), [Twitter](#) (@CherryBlossFest), and [Instagram](#) (@CherryBlossFest).

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