



Manhattan Public Library

2026 Bookmark Contest

Submissions Accepted Aug. 31 - Sept. 30, 2026

LICENSE TO READ

CLASSIFIED

September is National Library Card Sign-Up Month:

Your mission should you choose to accept it... is to submit a design for our 2026 Bookmark Contest! Each year our library celebrates **National Library Card Sign-Up month** with a contest to showcase the incredible talent of our community. Manhattan Public Library invites you to join in on the celebration!

Theme: Operation Remarkable, License to Read!

Submissions are not required to relate to the theme, but we hope you give it a try. Libraries are high-security vaults of unlimited power, classified knowledge, and infinite worlds; and it is completely free for the taking! Your library card is a master key, a VIP credential, and a license to unlock secrets that most people walk right past. Whether your style is a mind-bending cosmic explosion, a sleek digital landscape, or something completely unexpected, show us what it feels like to possess the ultimate tool of discovery!

The contest is open to ages 5 and up, with one winner per age category. Winners will receive a small gift from the library and their winning design will be professionally printed and displayed throughout the library. Winners will be contacted beginning October 7, 2026.

Submission Rules

- Artwork must be an original creation and should not include any copyrighted images.
- Artwork must stay within the template provided (2-by-8 inches).
- Artwork should avoid any fine details or written words near the edge of the template.
- We highly encourage using bold ink, vivid markers, crayons, or colored pencils so your design stands out clearly on the final print. Soft pencil lines will fade in the scanning process.
- One entry per person please.
- Artwork submitted becomes property of the Manhattan Public Library and will not be returned after entry.
- Winners must claim their prize no later than December 1, 2026, or their prize will be forfeited.
- Participants must live in Manhattan, KS or within our service area including the following counties:
- Chase, Clay, Dickinson, Geary, Lyon, Marion, Marshall, Morris, Pottawatomie, Riley, Wabaunsee, and Washington

Catagories: Ages 5-8, Ages 9-13, Ages 14-17, Ages 18+

Contest Entry Form on Reverse

(785) 776-4741 | 629 Poyntz Ave. Manhattan, KS, 66502 | mhklibrary.org

2026 Bookmark Design Contest

Operation Remarkable: License to Read!

Draw your design
in the box below

This form must be fully completed to be considered.

Category:

(Pick One)

☐

Ages 5-8

☐

Ages 9-13

☐

Ages 14-17

☐

Age 18+

First Name:

Must be legible for entry

Last Name:

Must be legible for entry

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Please provide active email address, winners will be contacted via email.

I have a Manhattan Public Library Card: ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Library card not required for entry submission.

Parent/Guardian Signature:

(Required if artist is under 18)

BE ADVISED: Artwork will not be returned, please take a photo of your submission if you wish to keep a copy.

Submission Drop Off:

Entries can be mailed in or dropped off. No email entries.

Place your entry in the **Red Drop Box** inside the library's Children's Room or near the Circulation Desk. Entries can also be mailed to:

Attn: Public Relations

Manhattan Public Library

629 Poyntz Ave. Manhattan, KS, 66502

