

K-5th Grade 1st PLACE

Explore with Me

Explore with me the Ozark hills,
So peaceful and tall.

Explore with me the bison and scissortail
Out in the open fields.

Explore with me Robbers Cave State Park
To see where Jessie James and Belle Starr hid out.

Explore with me the Great Salt plains and
Dig for a one of a kind crystal.

Explore with me one of nature's skyscrapers,
The Wichita Mountains that give the sky a high-five.

Explore with me down to Blue Hole,
So blue and so cold.

Explore with me down old Route 66
And be a part of history.

Explore with me the great Totem Pole,
So extraordinary and rare.

Explore with me and you will see
How Oklahoma mamas sure do try,
Like the Haggard song which helped him to the Hall of Fame.

Explore with me all of the hidden treasures
Oklahoma is offering for the world to see.

--Aurora Parks

Roosevelt Elementary

Pryor

K-5th Grade 2nd PLACE

Oklahoma State Emblems

Our state's anthem "Oklahoma" is a beautiful song
The scissor-tailed flycatcher's tail is very long
The redbud tree has a beautiful pose
And our state's rock is shaped like a rose
Our state's colors are green and white
And the buffalo survives with all its might
The fiddle plays a happy tune
And the state's drink, milk, is as white as the moon
The strawberry is very red, indeed
And the Indian Blanket starts out as a seed
The white bass is a white fish
And the chicken fried steak is a part of our state's dish
Watermelon is a very yummy treat
And honey from a honeybee is very sweet
The Mexican free-tailed bat is very scary
And the square dance is very merry
The Oklahoma rose is a wonderful flower
The black swallowtail is flying every hour
Our state's pin is the OK pin
And the collared lizard is very thin
These things represent our state
And we shall remember them to this very date.

--Amelia Hanlan
Independence Elementary
Yukon

K-5th Grade 3rd PLACE (tie)

The Wonderful Watermelon

O, magnificent watermelon,
The Oklahoma state vegetable,
Can you believe it is a fruit?

So juicy you are,
How satisfying it is,
With all the meat you provide.

Growing the watermelon,
Takes quite a lot of time.
But it's so worth it.

I love how huge you are,
I love that you can give
Multiple people food.

A variety of colors,
Green and red,
And even orange, too.

Our state vegetable because
Senator Don Barrington said,
“The watermelon is in the cucumber
And gourd families which are vegetables.”

--Parker Hensley
Independence Elementary
Yukon

K-5th Grade

3rd PLACE (tie)

Oklahoma is Home

Oklahoma rose
Kind people
Land of the free
American buffalo
Home to me
On the map
My world
A beautiful place

Is my life
Scissortail flycatcher

Home of the brave
Overall amazing
Masterpiece
Everybody's place of peace.

--Madison Mennecke
Locust Grove Upper Elementary
Locust Grove

6th-8th Grade 1st PLACE

Flying Above the Land

Okies

The people of the land

The Cherokees

The spirit of the land

Buffalo roamed the land

Like the people would

Roses bloomed red

And the scissor-tailed flycatcher said,

“Watch me fly high in the sky of Oklahoma’s nature,

Which is our one and only savior.”

--Erin Bendabout

Locust Grove Middle School

Locust Grove

6th-8th Grade 2nd PLACE

Symbol of the 60 Tribes

I fly so high like the eagle in the sky
And look down on those who look to me and sigh.
I'm blue from the flag carried by soldiers
Of Native ancestry with burdens on their shoulders.
My shield of buffalo hide and of the feathers of the eagle
Carried by the brave soldiers of an Osage warrior.
With pride they look to me, with hearts wide open to respect
The ones who defended them, as I carry away their tears
From eyes all swollen.
I fly so high like the eagle in the sky
Honoring those who lived and died.

--Jerah Bighorse
Locust Grove Middle School
Locust Grove

6th-8th Grade 3rd PLACE (tie)

Roses

Flowers, they are so beautiful.
They are unique.
The way they gracefully sway in
The wind.
Rose is the Oklahoma state flower,
Roses, soft red petals.
How the petals swirl together
The sunlight shines so bright
Down upon the rose.
And when it rains, how the
Raindrops fall upon the petals.
Roses are often a gift that
Comes from love.
Also a gift of sadness.
Roses are a way of communicating.
They can always help.
Roses.

--Miranda Blossom
Locust Grove Middle School
Locust Grove

6th-8th Grade 3rd PLACE (tie)

What a Great State Oklahoma Is

You can blow us up, but you can't break us down.
We will rebuild in every town.
When one man falls, ten will rise
To dust him off and stand by his side.
Our hearts are broken for those we've lost.
Home destroyed, vehicles tossed.
Takes more than winds to break our stride.
Standing united, that's Oklahoma pride.
You will love it forever.
When will you leave? It will be never.

--Mya Phillips
Locust Grove Middle School
Locust Grove

9th-12th Grade

1st PLACE

Let It Be Heard

Most don't care for what I am, as if I mean nothing to this city.
Others adore me, for I might resemble their favorite flower.
The Oklahoma grounds are my hearth, western and central.
I've been here for millennia, and the legend is I represent
Blood and tears of those taken in the "Trail of Tears."
I never move, yet I bloom, still as fruit in a pretty portrait.
Glimmering in the sun ever so lightly,
My cinnamon-shaded petals so astoundingly detailed.
I may just be a rock to some people,
But I was formed by barite crystals.
Some of those who know of me cherish me
For what they hear of my legend.
I have many names, but the one most known
Is the rose rock, Oklahoma's state rock.
I am not just a rock, for I am a symbol.

--Jasmine Alvarado
Emerson South
Oklahoma City

9th-12th Grade

2nd PLACE

Home

Buffalo, scissor-tailed flycatcher, redbud tree,
Barite rose, a rock you see
Our floral emblem is mistletoe
Many symbols of the Oklahoma we know
Oklahoma, this wonderful land
It really is quite grand
We look here, and we look there
And see wonderful people everywhere
We turn the corner and look around
Where beautiful nature can be found
From peaceful fields to lively towns
Oklahoma invites people from all around
Oklahoma, it is the home we love
Oklahoma, a place to dream of.

--Sierra Murphy
Locust Grove High School
Locust Grove

9th-12th Grade

3rd PLACE

Watermelon

Might you wanna know?
What is our state vegetable you ask?
Even you might guess, but you will never get it
In such case, I would have to say
The watermelon, it's always been that way
But isn't the watermelon a fruit, anyway?
Maybe where you live,
But in Oklahoma we like to do things our own way.
It might be a little different or a little strange
We never know when it might rain
Or if the sun will shine,
Maybe if it might ever go away
But that's how we like it
It keeps us on our feet.
Never to doubt what we have in store for today
We love Oklahoma more and more each day
We never know what might happen
But to us it's the only way
Criticize and critique all you may
But we love it here, anyway
We even put the "home in Okla'HOME'a
And that's how it needs to stay.
Never forgetting to cherish each and every day
Because this is Oklahoma and you better bet
We are going to keep it this way.

--Audra Cunningham
Locust Grove High School
Locust Grove

Adult

1st PLACE

Emblems from Home

This place is where the
Creeks made beds
For their tears
Indian Blanket and Indian Paint Brush
Color long gone footprints to remind us that
Our Mother once blushed there
Our Mothers once bled there
Our Mothers labored there
And "Labor conquers all things"
I live in Oklahoma Hills
And I know intimately Oklahoma Wind
Sweeping lonesome plains
Outside my door Redbuds color the start of spring
And Mistletoe color the start of winter
Do you realize that Faded is the Love
Of this Our Native Land
I Salute that Our Symbols of Peace
Unite All People
I wonder if our history will ever support
The claim
I am of This Land
Am I of This Land

--Casey McLerran
Sapulpa

Adult

2nd PLACE

Scissortail

Patience is your virtue
Perched on a rancher's barbed-wire fence
As if you own it
You wait—
Scanning the sacred savannah that goes to the horizon
Who is your next victim?
Grasshopper?
Berry on a steam?
Dragonfly?
No—not today
Not him

Cloaked in majesty, you are—
Topped in pale blue
A gash of red at your wing
The canopy above wide and silken and brilliant
The breeze whispers and you tilt your tiny head
And sway on your mighty perch of wire
Can you see forever?
The prairie swoons under the
Oklahoma sun
The day turns soft
The clouds sigh

Split your tail
And take the sky.

--Debra Martin
Edmond

Adult

3rd PLACE

My Oklahoma

Oklahoma—I think it's God's country.
Wide open meadows and crystal clear streams,
High rolling hills with valleys between,
Them rugged ol' cowboys in tattered dusty chaps,
Would cinch up their saddles and five gallon hats.
Long days on the drive til the evening sun set,
Then they'd gather 'round the fire before retiring to their tents.
And forget not the farmer, who gave his life to this land,
His neck stained with dirt and cracked calloused hands,
Up before dawn to tend to his stock,
Prayin' the good Lord would send rain for his crops.
Through winters, tornadoes and the infamous Dust Bowl,
It's fitting our state motto is "Labor conquers all."
And like those before me,
My roots here run deep,
I know Oklahoma isn't Heaven,
But it's the closet thing I've seen.

--Hannah Eaton
Claremore