



# ILLINOIS TOLLWAY NEWS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 3, 2019**

## **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY ANNOUNCES ANNUAL STUDENT ART CONTEST**

*Competition for 2020 map cover invites high school students  
to illustrate service and sacrifice of Illinois state troopers*

**DOWNERS GROVE, IL** – The Illinois Tollway, in partnership with Blick Art Materials and MB Real Estate (MBRE), invites high school art students to submit original artwork honoring the service and sacrifice of the Illinois State Police for a chance to have their design chosen as the cover of the 2020 Tollway Map.

The Illinois State Police is dedicated to promoting public safety to improve the quality of life in Illinois, including patrolling the 294-mile Illinois Tollway system. Among their duties, state troopers serve to protect lives and property, enforce criminal laws and motor vehicle safety laws and respond to emergencies.

This year, in the wake of the tragic loss of a string of Illinois State troopers in the line of duty, including two who died serving the Illinois Tollway, the contest is recognizing the distinguished work done by the Illinois State Police patrolling Tollways and state highways, protecting and assisting drivers despite the risks they face themselves.

“These troopers demonstrated the courage and dedication that exemplifies the service provided by Illinois State Police to the public they protect,” said Illinois Tollway Executive Director José Alvarez. “We want to honor these troopers and the vital work still being done by their colleagues with the help of young artists across the state whom we invite to create images that will provide a visual memorial to the service and sacrifice of these remarkable men and women.”

The 2020 Tollway Map Cover Art Contest offers young artists the chance to illustrate the service and sacrifice of Illinois State Police troopers. Areas of focus may include, but are not limited to, how the Illinois State Police:

- Improves the quality of life for Illinois motorists through the principles of integrity, service and pride
- Promotes traffic safety on Illinois roadways through enforcement of motor vehicle laws
- Serves the Tollway with motorcycle patrols, K-9 units and detectives to keep people, roadways and communities safe

More than 300 high schools in the 12 counties served by the Illinois Tollway have been sent information about this year’s contest. Art contest entries will be accepted beginning September 16, 2019, and must be postmarked no later than October 11, 2019.

Artwork created by the grand prize winner will be featured on the cover of the Tollway’s 2020 map, which is distributed at no cost to more than 75,000 customers. The grand prize winner and three runners-up will be featured in the Tollway’s annual report. Awards include:

- Grand prize winner: \$400 gift certificate from Blick Art Materials and \$200 in gift certificates from MBRE to use at oases retail shops and restaurants
- Runners-up: \$200 gift certificate from Blick Art Materials and \$100 in gift certificates from MBRE

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- A certificate of appreciation for all students who participate in the contest

“Blick Art Materials is pleased to support the efforts of student artists to promote the Illinois State Police,” said Blick Art Materials Chief Executive Bob Buchsbaum. “We are always impressed with the creativity of the participants in the art contest and are particularly excited about this year’s contest theme.”

An Illinois Tollway committee will initially judge all contest entries to determine the top 10. Those top 10 entries will be featured on the Illinois Tollway’s website and displayed in galleries at each of the five Tollway oases pavilions. The public will be invited to view the artwork and cast their votes online to choose the top four entries. The grand prize winner and three runners-up will be selected by a panel of judges, including members of the Tollway Board of Directors and representatives from MBRE.

“MB Real Estate is pleased to be partnering with the Illinois Tollway for this year’s map cover art contest to promote the work of the Illinois State Police and to showcase the creativity of young artists in the community,” said MBRE Operations Manager Steve Merial. “We look forward to displaying the artwork throughout the oases.”

The 2020 Tollway Map Cover Art Contest rules and all required entry forms are posted on the Tollway’s website at [illinoistollway.com](http://illinoistollway.com).

The Illinois Tollway launched the Map Cover Art Contest in 2011 to highlight the work of talented art students from the communities served by the Illinois Tollway. Last year, nearly 40 entries from student artists were submitted and more than 30,000 votes were cast by the general public to determine the four contest finalists. The 2019 Tollway map features cover artwork from last year’s contest winner, Courtney Kurtz, a junior at Lincoln-Way West High School in New Lenox.

### **About Blick Art Materials**

Founded in Galesburg, Illinois, in 1911, Blick Art Materials is one of the largest and oldest providers of art supplies in the United States, with 66 retail stores nationwide. Its products cater to the full spectrum of artists – from the youngest child ready to scribble with his or her first crayon to well-known, gallery-represented professionals. The company’s extensive selection, competitive prices and superior customer service make Blick the best choice for art educators, students, artists, architects, designers, hobbyists or anyone requiring quality art materials for work or pleasure. A long-time advocate of art education in the U.S., Blick also provides support of scholastic, collegiate and professional art shows, both financially and through a variety of materials that emphasize the benefits of art education. Blick also supports the communities in which it does business by sponsoring in-store events, local schools, art leagues and community groups across the country. Visit [dickblick.com](http://dickblick.com) for more information.

### **About MB Real Estate Services Inc.**

Founded in 1982, MB Real Estate is a full-service real estate organization that provides multifaceted expertise in Asset/Facilities Management; Leasing Services; Project/Construction Management; Tenant Representation and Investment Services. Additionally, MBRE Healthcare provides comprehensive real estate solutions for hospitals, health systems and physicians throughout the United States. Headquartered in Chicago, with regional offices in New York, Atlanta, Orlando, Dallas and Denver, MB Real Estate provides these services to corporations, institutions, professional organizations, private investors and non-profit agencies. For more information, please visit [mbres.com](http://mbres.com).

### **About the Illinois Tollway**

The Illinois Tollway is a user-fee system that receives no state or federal funds for maintenance and operations. The agency maintains and operates 294 miles of roadways in 12 counties in Northern Illinois, including the Reagan Memorial Tollway (I-88), the Veterans Memorial Tollway (I-355), the Jane

Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90), the Tri-State Tollway (I-94/I-294/I-80) and the Illinois Route 390 Tollway.

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