

Burbank girl's federal duck stamp honor revoked

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In the span of one week, an area 6-year-old won the 2013 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Competition, and also had her title revoked.

On April 19, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that a painting of a canvasback duck by Madison Grimm of Burbank had won the national contest, and would appear on the 2013-14 Federal Junior Duck Stamp.

The painting previously had been named winner of the South Dakota State Junior Duck Stamp Contest.

Then, on April 26, it was announced that Grimm had been disqualified.

According to a press release, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service disqualified Grimm following the contest after "concerns were raised by parents and teachers about

the authenticity of the work."

The Federal Duck Stamp Office investigated and learned that the painting had been transferred, the press release said.

This means that the outline of the image in the painting was transferred to the canvas using a photograph and a sheet of graphite paper.

"This is inconsistent with the Junior Duck Stamp Contest rules," the press release said. "On the advice of the Department of the Interior's Solicitor's Office, Grimm's painting was disqualified."

As a result, Grimm's painting will not be featured on a stamp and she will not receive the \$5,000 scholarship that normally goes to the contest-winner, which has led to some criticism online.

In other media outlets, Grimm's father, artist Adam Grimm has been quoted as saying graphite transfer is a

common technique.

The rulebook for the federal contest goes into some detail on the subject.

On page 17, rule three says, "Do not copy or trace a copyrighted photo. Copied or plagiarized paintings will be disqualified."

Adam Grimm was quoted as saying the photo in question was not copyrighted.

The next rule on page 17 says, "If using a photo as reference, extensively change the 'attitude' of the duck for your creation. For example, if the duck's head is upright, draw it facing down as if it is drinking water, or turn the angle of the duck's head."

The rule also encourages young artists to change the angle of the duck's body, and the color of its surroundings.

"The idea that each student artist is creating his or her own depiction of waterfowl and submitting that original creation as a Junior Duck Stamp Contest entry is an important aspect of this contest," the rulebook says.




This painting of a canvasback duck by Madison Grimm of Burbank was announced April 19 as the winner of the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Competition. On April 26, officials announced that her work had been disqualified, and meaning she will not receive the \$5,000 first prize award and her artwork will not adorn a duck stamp.

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