



Paint the Plow Program

PennDOT's Paint the Plow Program began in 2015 and has expanded to most counties across the state. Now an annual tradition, PennDOT is encouraging high schools throughout the state to participate.

The Paint the Plow Program is a way for PennDOT and the local community to cultivate public awareness and promote winter driving safety on state roadways. High school students are invited to paint creative, original artwork onto a PennDOT snowplow blade. The decorative blades reflecting each school individually, will have the opportunity to be visible during winter snow removal on various state roads throughout the region.

For the 2026 program, schools are tasked with creating artwork based on the statewide theme of "**Snow Means Slow.**"

Photos of each painted plow will be posted on a PennDOT statewide online platform, where users will have the opportunity to view the designs from all participating schools.

The plows will also be eligible to receive the Judges' Pick award, comprised of a panel of PennDOT officials.

Deadlines for applications to participate in the program can be found at www.pa.gov/PaintThePlow.

INFORMATION, GUIDELINES, TERMS & CONDITIONS

Description

Paint the Plow is a community outreach program in which students are invited to paint a PennDOT snowplow blade with original artwork to represent their individual school. In addition to being visible when in full service during the winter-weather months, the blades will potentially be used within the school's community to enhance public awareness, promote safety, and foster greater appreciation of both PennDOT and the school's art program.

Participants

- The Paint the Plow program is open to high schools and high school level technical schools in most counties.
- Only students who are currently enrolled in the applicant school may participate in the execution and completion of the art project.
- School officials, such as faculty, general staff and/or administrators, may direct the selection of the design and students; however, they are *not permitted* to implement the design or participate in the performance of the work.

Theme

- **"Snow Means Slow"** was chosen as the theme for the 2026 program. The theme was selected to remind drivers to practice safe driving, such as decreasing speed and increasing following distance when traveling in winter weather conditions. Students are encouraged to create a design that incorporates this theme while also incorporating imagery that embodies their school's unique characteristics, or weather-related motifs.
- Students may incorporate their school's logo, emblem, or mascot into the design.
- Artwork must be original and in good taste; anything deemed inappropriate or not original will be precluded from the program at the sole discretion of PennDOT.
- Only non-partisan, non-political and non-violent material will be accepted.
- View artwork from the previous year's Paint the Plow program [here](#).

Provisions

**** The use of trademarked or copyrighted materials, such as characters from popular films or video games, as well as cooperate logos of independent companies, are prohibited due to copyright laws. All submissions must be the original work of the submitter and must not infringe on the rights of third parties, including but not limited to, intellectual property rights. By participating in the program, the school accepts responsibility for any third-party intellectual property claims which may arise from the school's submission and agrees to hold PennDOT harmless from such claims. ****

- PennDOT will deliver an approximately 12 feet long and 4 feet high plow to a secure location at the school as specified by the school's staff. The school may need to perform prep work on the plow before painting can take place.
- Plow blades may NOT be removed from the specified location on the school's premises, and they cannot be modified with the addition of extra materials or ornaments.
- Selection of paint materials to be used will be up to the students and faculty; however, consideration should be given to durable, enamel paints that will provide for coverage and better wear. A final clear coat is optional but may help the life of the paint.
- PennDOT will deliver the blade at a time specified by the school, and the department will pick up the blade based on the deadline set by the specific district. Specific arrangements for blade delivery and pick up dates and times will be coordinated between the school host (teacher/principal) and District Paint the Plow Coordinator or County Maintenance Representative.
- **All blade designs must be submitted for approval before painting of the blade can begin.** Designs can be sent in photo-form as an email or scanned to your regional coordinator. PennDOT reserves the right to reject blade designs for any reason, including but not limited to, blade designs which are not in accordance with these terms and conditions. If a blade design is rejected, a school may submit a new blade design. PennDOT will use reasonable efforts to review the new blade design to accommodate program participation. Schools should submit designs as early as possible and in accordance with these terms and conditions to prevent any delay in blade design approval.
- Once the design is approved by PennDOT, the painting process may begin.

Please Note: PennDOT does not provide financial assistance for supplies, materials or other items associated with this program. However, reaching out to local booster clubs or social organizations is permissible and encouraged.

Display & Promotion

- All area media outlets will be notified and given the opportunity for coverage. A press release and photos will also be disseminated to these media outlets as well. Pictures will also be posted on the Department's social media accounts, such as Facebook, X, and Instagram.
- All plow blades will be affixed to a truck assigned to a designated route within the school district and used during the winter season.
- The school is responsible for providing a photo of the completed plow, prior to returning it to PennDOT for online voting purposes. The photo should be close up with no people in it and can be submitted to the regional coordinator.

Please Note: The competition as outlined herein applies to the current program and is subject to change yearly.

Additional Information

- It should be expected that the design on a given plow blade will wear away once the blade is put into service for snow and ice removal.
- Typically, plow blades are in service during the winter-weather months. In the event of an early snowstorm, PennDOT may need to use the blades to remove snow from the roadway.

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