



Monthly Miniature Painting Contest

Official Rules (v2.0.0)

Summary of Changes – 8/30/22

- Submission deadline changed to the close of business on the first business day of the following month (e.g., the October entry is due by the close of business on the first day of the month of November).
- Submissions must be made in-store
- The monthly winner's chosen miniature will not be featured the month immediately after they win.
- Fan favorite voting will be held via paper ballot in store.
- Winners are not barred from winning in multiple divisions/categories or for any number of months.
- Frequent winners may be placed in a separate division.
- Prizing was updated to allow for monthly contests with medium and large miniatures.

Eligibility:

The contest is open to anyone able to paint a miniature with a brush. It is intended for customers of Mystic Fortress Games and members of the surrounding communities. No purchase is necessary to participate (i.e., you may source the miniature and painting supplies anywhere). Submissions by those age 13 and younger will be judged in a separate division from all other entries. Entrants under the age of 18 as of the date the monthly submission is due must complete the Parent/Guardian consent section on the contest entry form, authorizing their participation in the contest and a photography/publicity release. The entry form is available in store, and at <https://mysticfortressgames.com/contests>, in the section titled "Monthly Miniature Painting Contest."

Competition Rules:

For this contest, the term "miniature" in the context of a contest entry shall mean either one singular figure or all miniatures and accessories packaged and sold in a single package as described in the monthly contest details.

Each individual may submit one entry (one miniature) per month. Entries from persons 13 years of age or younger (as of submission deadline for the month) are eligible to win in the overall contest and in the age-restricted Young Painters category. Entrants may win in any number of divisions/categories in any given month, provided that they are eligible for each division/category.



Painting Methods

Entrant must paint (or have painted) the entire miniature themselves. No commissions or team entries are allowed. Miniatures must be brush-painted. Airbrushed and spray-painted miniatures are not eligible for entry, with the exception that spray techniques may be used to apply primer, if required. Markers and paint pens may be used. Stickers and decals are prohibited unless otherwise noted as allowed for a given month.

Modification/Kit-bashing

Unless the monthly selection is specified as an “Out-of-the-Box” or “Unaltered” contest, entrants are free to modify their miniature, provided that the resulting figure may still be easily identified as a version of the original model by a casual observer. For the purpose of this contest, a modified miniature will be considered any miniature affected by the addition, removal, reshaping, or relocation of any parts or accessories of that model other than the base (covered under “Basing” below).

Miniatures with Assembly Options

If the monthly selection requires assembly and allows for multiple customization options direct from the package, then the miniature may be assembled and painted using any combination of the provided options. In addition, the rules of the Modification/Kit-bashing section still apply unless otherwise specified in the monthly selection announcement.

Preparations

While entries are accepted from anyone, at any skill level, we strongly encourage participants to learn as much as they can to improve their modeling/miniature painting skills. For example, most miniatures that are sold or printed retain marks or seams from their creation. These mold lines may range from nearly imperceivable marks to distinct ridges of material. When mold lines are present, paint—especially highlights—often accumulate on them, making them more noticeable. To have your miniature receive the best possible score, you should take steps to prepare it before you begin painting. Removing mold lines and straightening/reshaping plastic pieces are common preparation steps. On larger, multi-part models, the application of putties or fillers are common to hide assembly joints. If you need help or guidance on preparing your miniature, sign up for one of our classes (<https://mysticfortressgames.com/classes>), ask store staff for advice, or connect with other hobbyists through groups like the Mystic Mini Painters group on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/810985686226146/>).

Basing

If the monthly selection includes a baseplate in the original packaging, the miniature is not considered complete until mounted to the baseplate. The painting and/or decoration of the miniature base is not required to enter the contest. However, decorative basing can have a significant impact on the submission’s general appearance and appeal. Basing will not affect the score you receive for the quality of your miniature’s paint job, but does account for up to ten (10) points out of a possible 110 points.



Other Contests

You may not enter into this contest any miniature that has previously won any type of prize or award in any other competition. You may not enter into this contest any miniature that is or will be part of any other competition concurrently with this contest.

Repeat Entries

If your entry does not win in any of our categories/divisions, you may submit it again—with or without repainting or modification—for any future contest for which it qualifies.

Submitting an Entry

To enter the contest, bring your miniature to the store at 100 W. Main Street in Waconia, Minnesota. When you drop off your entry, you must drop off or complete a submission form. Submission forms will be available in-store, as well as online (<https://mysticfortressgames.com/contests/>). Entries from minors will not be accepted if the entry form is not signed by their parent or legal guardian.

You must drop off your miniature and entry form with staff. Staff will assign you an entry number based on the order in which your miniature was received. Staff will place that number on both your entry form and on the underside of your miniature's base.

Store Possession During Contest

Mystic Fortress Games will retain possession of your miniature from the date you submit your entry through the duration of the month during which Fan Favorite Voting occurs for its monthly contest. While Mystic Fortress Games holds your miniature, we will take reasonable precautions to safeguard your miniature. However, the entrant acknowledges that their miniature will be handled by store staff on multiple occasions, and that accidental or incidental damage is possible. Should an entrant's miniature be damaged while in the store's care, Mystic Fortress Games' liability shall be limited to a maximum of the replacement of the original, unpainted miniature, and will be negotiated with the entrant should the circumstance arise.

Photography Consent

By submitting your entry, you consent that Mystic Fortress Games may use images of you and/or your miniature for marketing purposes, both in-store and online.

Judging Criteria

The **Monthly Winner** will be selected from all entries by Mystic Fortress Games staff, and any guest judges invited to participate from time to time, based upon the following:

- Technical painting skills (50 points) - Technical faults include incomplete coverage, visible mold lines, details obscured by heavy paint, etc.
- Aesthetics (50 points) – The overall visual appeal of the miniature. This measure is subjective and based upon each judge's personal opinions and preferences.



- Basing (optional, 10 points) - If an entrant chooses to paint, decorate, or enhance the base of their miniature, it will be assessed both on technical skills and aesthetics. Scores for basing are awarded over and above those awarded for the miniature itself. Note: a miniature that earns the maximum points under basing may still not earn the highest score in the contest.

Tie-breakers

In the event that two or more submissions tie for the highest rating for Monthly Winner, basing will be used as a tie-breaker. A miniature with decorative basing will gain two (2) points. A miniature with a painted base will receive one (1) point. A plain base will not receive any additional points.

In the event that basing does not break the tie, Dale and Andrew will vote to break the tie, or, at their option, they may choose to name two winners that month.

The monthly **Young Painter** winner is determined by Dale & Andrew after a review of all contest entries from painters aged 13 and younger. In the event of a tie, another staff member selected at random will cast the tie-breaking vote.

The monthly **Fan Favorite** winner is determined by a count of all ballots cast in the store during the month of the submission date (e.g., if entries were due by September 1st, in store voting will occur through September 30th). Mystic Fortress Games will display all entries and provide ballots and a ballot box during the voting period. Voting will be based on assigned entry numbers, to discourage people from associating names with submitted entries. Each ballot will include a second choice option, which will be used as a tie-breaker in the event of a tie.

Best of [Year]

If time and resources allow, Mystic Fortress Games may host a **Best of [Year]** contest from among all monthly winners for the calendar year. Details of any Best of [Year] contest will be published at the time of its announcement.

Prizes:

The top entry in each category will win prizes as listed below.

Monthly Winner (if contest subject is Small):

- One free medium miniature (value up to \$10.99)
- Chooses the miniature for a future Monthly Miniature Painting Contest.
- Eligible for any Best of [Year] contest.

Fan Favorite (if contest subject is Small):

- One free small miniature (value up to \$5.99)

Young Painter - Age 13 and younger (if contest subject is Small):

- One free small miniature (value up to \$5.99)



Monthly Winner (if contest subject is Medium):

- One free large miniature (value up to \$16.99)
- Chooses the miniature for a future Monthly Miniature Painting Contest.
- Eligible for any Best of [Year] contest.

Fan Favorite (if contest subject is Medium):

- One free medium miniature (value up to \$10.99)

Young Painter - Age 13 and younger (if contest subject is Medium):

- One free medium miniature (value up to \$10.99)

Monthly Winner (if contest subject is Large):

- A \$25 Mystic Fortress Games gift card.
- Chooses the miniature for a future Monthly Miniature Painting Contest.
- Eligible for any Best of [Year] contest.

Fan Favorite (if contest subject is Medium):

- A \$20 Mystic Fortress Games gift card.

Young Painter - Age 13 and younger (if contest subject is Medium):

- A \$20 Mystic Fortress Games gift card.

Acceptance of Rules and Photo Consent

The submission of your entry indicates your willingness to accept and abide by all contest rules.

By entering the contest, you give the Mystic Fortress Games LLC rights and consent to post/publish pictures of the miniature and artist when and where we deem necessary without any further compensation.

Winners' Consent

The Monthly Winner and the Fan Favorite Winner consent to have their miniatures on display in our store for a period of one month following the announcement of the winner of the Fan Favorite vote. The Monthly Winner agrees to select the miniature to be featured in a future month's painting contest.

Winner's Selection

Selection must be from among available/in-print miniatures from the lines we carry (presently Reaper Miniatures and WizKids Miniatures) and not exceed the price limits of the contest. Unless directed otherwise by Dale or Andrew, all winners will select a small miniature for a future contest. As of the date of this writing, that limit is \$5.99 USD for small miniatures, \$10.99 for medium miniatures, and \$18.99 for large miniatures. The winner also agrees to designate second and third choices of the same size category in the event that the chosen miniature cannot be sourced in time for the contest.



Notification of Winner and Collection of Prizes

Winners will be notified via phone, text, or email, based on the information on the contest entry form. Winning entrant(s) must collect any physical prize in person during regular store hours. Physical prizes not claimed within 30 days of announcement are forfeit.

Contest Subject to Change

This contest operates at the discretion of Mystic Fortress Games and may be altered or ended at any time. Changes may include the creation or elimination of categories/divisions within the contest, and the change of the prizing structure.