

Your identity matters. Your story matters. Your creativity matters.

If you're part of a GSA, Pride Club, or any LGBTQ+ community space, you already know how powerful it is to show up for one another. The #CreateConnectCare Challenge invites LGBTQ+ youth and allies (ages 11-18) to use creativity to share their stories, challenge stigma, and spark connection.

Through art, writing, film, performance, or digital media, you can express what it means to belong, to be seen, and to care for yourself and your community.



Why This Matters

You are storytellers, culture shapers, and community builders. Creative expression can:

- Make invisible experiences visible
- Challenge stereotypes and stigma
- Build empathy and understanding
- Help peers feel less alone
- Celebrate identity, resilience, and pride



This painting is about my experience with being transgender — I am transmasculine, but I was a little girl once, and I've found understanding in my masculinity by looking back on who I was. By combining a photo of myself at three with one of my current teenage room, I show how old and new parts of me collide to help me understand myself and how growing up can be the greatest justice you do for your younger self. Wynter – Age 16



Why Join?



Celebrate Identity and Pride

Create work that reflects who you are — your joy, your resilience, your journey



Challenge Stigma

Use your creativity to shift perspectives and spark honest conversations.



Join a Global Movement

Connect with thousands of young creators worldwide using the arts to spark conversations.



Make Your Voice Visible

Share experiences that are often overlooked or misunderstood.

How To Participate: Deadline March 31, 2026

- 1 Choose a Focus Area:** Explore resources and choose a focus area, such as awareness, stigma, connection, or self-care.
- 2 Create a Piece:** Share their mental health stories through digital, visual, literary, performance, and film arts.
- 3 Share:** Submit their creative work to #CreateConnectCare by **March 31, 2026..**

2026 Awards & Recognition

- **40 Youth Awards:** Recognition grants of **\$100-\$500**, and **3 Educator Champion Awards: \$500 each.**
- **Creativity Journals:** Moleskine Journals for the first 500 U.S. entries.
- **Certificate of Participation:** All participants receive a digital certificate.