



Litter Education

UnCapped Art Contest Official Rules & Guidelines

A Message From KOB

KOB's Litter Education is a program spreading the message that *every litter bit hurts*. By providing opportunities for creative projects, the UnCapped Contest teaches elementary students across Oklahoma about the harmful effects of littering and the importance of reducing, reusing, and recycling.

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Program Overview

We are challenging students to tackle the issue of littering by creating a work of art from plastic bottle caps. Photos of submitted art pieces will be posted on a contest website for a public vote to determine contest finalists. The winner will be chosen from top three finalists by the contents of the required accompanying essay.

Teachers are encouraged to implement this art project into their science curriculum, teaching students why recycling is important and how they may reuse items.

In addition to artwork, students are required to submit a 200–300 word collaborative essay describing what they learned during the project, the importance of recycling, the harmful effects of littering, and how they can inspire their school, family members, and the rest of the community to recycle.

Contest Timeline

Registration

August 16–September 20, 2024*

Submission

September 23–October 11, 2024*

Public Online Vote

Late October

Finalists Announced

Late October/Early November

Winner Announced

November 22, 2024 at the
34th Annual Environmental Excellence Celebration

Winner Honored

March 2025 at the
Inaugural Student Environmental Champions Awards

**Registration and submission forms will open at 10:00AM and close at 3:00PM*

Contest Eligibility

Elementary students in public, private, and parochial institutions, as well as those who are home-schooled, are eligible to participate. ***Entries may be submitted by an individual (only if home-schooled) or by a group with a minimum of 6 participants and a maximum of 30 participants.*** If groups are larger than 30 participants we ask you to split into two or more groups. Each group must register, work, and submit entries separately, but may be represented by the same teacher/adult supervisor. Each person in a group entry must meet eligibility rules.

How To Enter

Those choosing to enter the contest are required to register during the time period provided in the contest timeline by visiting www.keepoklahomabeautiful.com. Registration and submission of an essay and a photo of the entrant's completed art piece are two separate processes. Upon registration, the primary contact listed will receive an email including further instructions about the submission process.

By entering the contest, the entrant agrees that all submissions may be posted on the Keep Oklahoma Beautiful (KOB) website and social media pages, as well as sponsors' websites for viewing by the general public. The entrant also grants KOB an exclusive and perpetual license to publish, display, reproduce, or otherwise use the submission for KOB and its designees at its sole discretion without future notice or compensation. KOB doesn't guarantee the posting of any submissions and reserves the right not to post a submission. All entrants' submissions become the property of KOB and will not be returned to the entrant.

Entrants must agree to indemnify and hold KOB and its sponsors harmless from and against any suits, claims, losses, damages, and expenses, including reasonable attorney fees that may arise from or in connection with any entrant's submission and the use and/or display of the entrant's submission.

Submission

Submission of a physical art piece is not required for contest judging. The entry is to be made by uploading a photo(s) of the art piece and a PDF file of the essay to www.keepoklahomabeautiful.com during the submission period as outlined in the contest timeline. For online voting, the use of any "boosting" websites, programs, or other technology is strictly prohibited and will be grounds for immediate disqualification of the contestant.

Art Guidelines

- Art pieces must be made out of plastic caps from recyclable plastic bottles and containers. No metal lids from glass bottles or any other materials are allowed.
 - All art and essays must be entirely original work.
 - Entries must be created solely for the purpose of this contest and cannot have been submitted previously in a promotion or contest of any kind, or exhibited or previously displayed publicly through Instagram, Facebook, Twitter or any other means.
 - Entries must not contain or reference any names, products or services of any company or entity or any third party trademarks, logos, trade dress or promotion of any brand, product or service. (The name and/or mascot of an entrant's school may be used with permission from their administration.)
 - Photo must be in one of the following formats: jpeg or pdf.
 - Photo must be saved with the entrant school name or entrant name, as applicable (i.e. SchoolName.jpeg). If entering multiple groups, please differentiate the files by adding a group name or numbering the submissions (i.e. SchoolName1.jpeg or SchoolName-3rdHour.pdf).
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Essay Guidelines

- Essay must be between 200–300 words.
- Essays must be entirely original work.
- Essay should answer the following prompt:

How can you inspire your school, family, and community to recycle? Think about how you would educate them on recycling and what kind of sustainable habits they could start. You should explain the importance of recycling and the harmful effects of littering.

- Essay must be submitted in either .pdf or .docx format.
- Essay must be saved with the entrant school name or entrant name, as applicable (i.e. SchoolName.docx). If entering multiple groups, please differentiate the files by adding a group name or numbering the submissions (i.e. SchoolName1.docx or SchoolName-5thHour.pdf).

Winner Selection & Judging Process

All submitted entries that meet eligibility criteria will be posted on the KOB contest website in October. The general public will be invited to vote online for their favorite art piece. Online voting will be open for approximately one week. Three finalists will be determined by the highest number of votes.

From these three finalists a winner will be chosen by KOB appointed judges and program sponsors, based upon the artwork and essay combined. Finalists will be notified via email.

The official announcement of the winner will be made at our annual Environmental Excellence Celebration on November 22, 2024. All entries will be presented via slideshow and the winner of the contest will be announced during our celebration.

Finalists will be invited to attend and bring their physical art piece (optional) to a separate ceremony in March 2025, the inaugural Student Environmental Champions Awards. In addition, an announcement will be made via email to contest entrants and posted for the public on the KOB website and social media pages of KOB and sponsors.

Prizes

The winning submission will be recognized and celebrated with prizes from Keep Oklahoma Beautiful! Winners will be invited to attend a catered luncheon and awards ceremony in March 2025 (location TBA).

Oklahoma Academic Standards for Science

Below is a list of Oklahoma Academic Standards for science curriculums where incorporation of this art program is compatible. This list is not exhaustive and we encourage educators to expand their lessons to subjects outside of the “Earth and Human Activity” standards. More information on the Oklahoma Academic Standards of Excellence can be found on the Oklahoma State Department of Education website.

4-ESS3.1 Earth and Human Activity

Disciplinary Core Ideas: Energy and fuels that humans use are derived from natural resources, and their use affects the environment in multiple ways; Some resources are renewable over time, and others not.

Performance Expectations: Obtain and combine information from books and other reliable media to explain phenomena.

Clarification Statement: Examples of renewable energy resources could include wind energy, water behind dams, and sunlight; non-renewable energy resources are fossil fuels and fissile materials. Examples of environmental effects could include loss of habitat due to dams, loss of habitat due to surface mining, and air pollution from burning of fossil fuels.

5-ESS3.1 Earth and Human Activity

Disciplinary Core Ideas: Human activities in agriculture, industry, and everyday life have had major effects on the land, vegetation, streams, ocean, air, and even outer space. But individuals and communities are doing things to help protect Earth’s resources and environments.

Performance Expectations: Obtain and combine information from books and/or other reliable media to explain phenomena or solutions to a design problem.

Clarification Statement: Examples of information might include the use of natural fertilizers or biological pest control by farmers, replanting trees after cutting them by the logging industry, and the institution of recycling programs in cities.

Oklahoma Academic Standards for Science (Cont.)

6-ESS3.2 Earth and Human Activity

Disciplinary Core Ideas: Mapping the history of natural hazards in a region, combined with an understanding of related geologic forces, can help forecast the locations and likelihoods of future events.

Performance Expectations: Analyze and interpret data on natural hazards to forecast future catastrophic events and inform the development of technologies to mitigate their effects.

Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on how some natural hazards, such as volcanic eruptions and severe weather, are preceded by phenomena that allow for reliable predictions, but others, such as earthquakes, occur suddenly and with no notice, and thus are not yet predictable. Examples of natural hazards can be taken from interior processes (such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions), surface processes (such as mass wasting and tsunamis), or severe weather events (such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and floods). Examples of data can include the locations, magnitudes, and frequencies of the natural hazards. Examples of technologies can be global (such as satellite systems to monitor hurricanes or forest fires), or local (such as building basements in tornado-prone regions or reservoirs to mitigate droughts).

Keep Oklahoma Beautiful reserves the right to change, update, or otherwise amend these rules & guidelines at any time.