



# Litter Education

## UpCycled Invention Contest Official Rules & Guidelines

### A Message From KOB

The UpCycled Contest is changing! In previous years, KOB has seen both "just for looking" art and art with a use or purpose in the UpCycled contest. We want to encourage the creation of useful and purposeful pieces that serve a function. This year, students are to create, design, and build an invention out of reused materials that is used at their school, in their classroom, or at home. You will be asked to explain your invention's function in your accompanying essay.

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#### Contact Information

[beverlee@keepoklahomabeautiful.com](mailto:beverlee@keepoklahomabeautiful.com) | (405) 286-9141 | [www.keepoklahomabeautiful.com](http://www.keepoklahomabeautiful.com)

## Program Overview

We are challenging students to reuse items to make an *upcycled invention* that serves a purpose or provides a function at their school or in their classroom/home. Photos of submitted inventions will be posted on a contest website for a public vote to determine contest finalists. Winner will be chosen from the top three finalists by the contents of the required accompanying essay.

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

Along with their invention, students are to submit a class-collaborative essay that explores the detrimental impact of landfills on the environment, delve into the advantages of reusing items, and conduct research on their local community's landfill management practices and how they could be improved to be more sustainable. Additionally, students should explain how their invention has been or will be put to use.

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## 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*

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## Contest Eligibility

Middle school 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 of minimum 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 student in the group entry must meet eligibility requirements.

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## How To Enter

Those choosing to enter the contest are required to register during the registration period provided in the contest timeline by visiting [www.keepoklahomabeautiful.com](http://www.keepoklahomabeautiful.com).

Registration and submission of an essay and a photo of the entrant's completed invention 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 in 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.

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## Submission

Submission of a physical invention is not required for contest judging. The entry is to be made by uploading a photo(s) of the invention and a PDF file of the essay to [www.keepoklahomabeautiful.com](http://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.

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## Invention Guidelines

- All inventions must be useful in some capacity.
  - Inventions are to be made out of items that would otherwise end up in a landfill. (Please do not buy items specifically for this project. Students should be challenged to get creative!)
  - All inventions must be accompanied by an essay.
  - 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 300–500 words.
- All essays must be accompanied by an invention and be entirely original work.
- Essay should answer the following prompt:

*Explore the detrimental impact of landfills on Oklahoma’s environment, explain the advantages of reusing items, and conduct research on your local community's landfill management practices and how they could be improved to be more sustainable. Additionally, explain how your invention has been or will be put to use.*

- 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).

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## 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 invention. 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 invention 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 invention (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.

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## 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).

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## 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.

### **7.ESS3.3 Earth and Human Activity**

Disciplinary Core Ideas: Human activities have significantly altered the biosphere, sometimes damaging or destroying natural habitats and causing the extinction of other species. But changes to Earth’s environments can have different impacts (negative and positive) for different living things. Typically, as human populations and per-capita consumption of natural resources increase, so do the negative impacts on Earth unless the activities and technologies involved are engineered otherwise.

Performance Expectations: Apply scientific principles to design an object, tool, process, or system.

Clarification Statement: Examples of the design process include examining human environmental impacts, assessing the kinds of solutions that are feasible, and designing and evaluating solutions that could reduce that impact. Examples of human impacts can include water usage (such as the withdrawal of water from streams and aquifers or the construction of dams and levees), land usage (such as urban development, agriculture, or the removal of wetlands), and pollution (such as of the air, water, or land).

## Oklahoma Academic Standards for Science (Cont.)

### 7.ESS3.4 Earth and Human Activity

Disciplinary Core Ideas: Typically, as human populations and per-capita consumption of natural resources increase, so do the negative impacts on Earth unless the activities and technologies involved are engineered otherwise.

Performance Expectations: Construct an oral and written argument supported by empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support or refute an explanation or model for a phenomenon.

Clarification Statement: Examples of evidence include grade-appropriate databases on human populations and the rates of consumption of food and natural resources (such as freshwater, mineral, and energy). Examples of impacts can include changes to the appearance, composition, and structure of Earth's systems as well as the rates at which they change. The consequences of increases in human populations and consumption of natural resources are described by science, but science does not make the decisions for the actions society takes.

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