

## **2023 Northwest Indiana Rain Barrel Design Competition Rules**

The Rain Barrel Design Competition is sponsored by Porter County Recycling & Waste Reduction and the MS4 Communities in Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties.

Teachers and schools interested in participating will receive a rain barrel they can paint or decorate with environmentally-friendly materials and illustrate an environmental theme. All rain barrels in the competition will be displayed and judged between 9 a.m. and noon Saturday, April 22, by visitors of the 2022 Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration at the Porter County Expo Center. The winners will be announced at the end of the Earth Day Celebration, around 1 p.m.

Guests participating and entering the Celebration will receive a ticket to cast a vote for their favorite barrel in the competition. Awards will be provided across all Elementary, Intermediate/ Middle & High School entries. Schools winning first place will receive a \$200 cash prize. Second place winners will receive \$150 cash prize, and third place will earn a \$100 cash prize.

1. Registration for school representatives or teachers will be available on [www.PorterCountyRecycling.org](http://www.PorterCountyRecycling.org) until 35 competitors have registered or Wednesday, March 1, whichever comes first.
2. All schools, public and private, and all grades (K-12) are invited to participate. One barrel per school limit. Registrants can view other competitors when they register, so they can see if someone from their school has registered. Registrants will be notified if they will not be able to participate.
3. The designs on the barrels must be able to withstand the elements and have little/no negative impact on the environment. See *suggested* design materials and method. Our suggestions are just that: suggestions. You may design the barrel however you see fit.
4. Design should involve a theme that is related to the environment in celebration of the Northwest Indiana Earth Day. Suggestions include but not limited to: The Climate is Changing. So Should We. Celebrate Earth Day Every Day; Only Rain Down the Drain; Contain the Rain; Conserve Water; Don't Be a Litter Bug; Respect the Planet; Reduce, Reuse & Recycle; Keep Our Earth Green and Clean; Green Earth. Clean Earth; Nurture Nature; One Planet. One Chance; Pollution is not a solution. Feel free to be creative!
5. The school name and class **must** appear on the designed barrel. Ex: Harper Elementary School, Mr. Smith's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class. The identifier can be built into the design or be small and unobtrusive somewhere on the barrel.
6. Decorated barrels must be delivered to the Porter County Expo Center, 215 E. Division Rd., Valparaiso on any of these dates:
  - Thursday, April 20, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.;
  - Friday, April 21, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.;
  - Saturday, April 22, 7 a.m.-8:30 a.m.

### **Barrels must be picked up**

- between 1:15 and 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 22 (day of the event) or on
- Monday, April 24, between 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Porter County Expo

If you cannot commit to any of these dates and times, please make arrangements with someone who can take care of this for you. You do not have to attend the event or stay for the event's duration.

7. Accompanying the rain barrel at the Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration must be:

- a) Completed drop off form (see last page).
  - b) A separate decorated box to be used to collect the votes for your rain barrel at the Celebration. A shoebox will work. The box must be wrapped with paper so it is sealed and identified with the school/classroom's name on it. A 2"x1" hole should be cut in the top so the public can drop in their vote tickets.
8. Teachers who order barrels but do not return them for the contest will be charged \$100 by the District.
  9. Barrels will be displayed at the 2023 Northwest Indiana Earth Day Celebration, and each visitor who attends the event will get one voting ticket to place in the rain barrel's accompanying box to signify his or her favorite.
  10. The barrel in each of the two categories that gets the most votes will win a \$200 classroom scholarship! Second prizes will win a \$150 classroom scholarship, and third place will win a \$100 classroom scholarship. The ultimate use of the rain barrel must be identified on the form at the time of delivery:
    - a. The school can keep the barrel to use for its own silent auction or to collect rain water.
    - b. We ask that if the teacher elects to keep the barrel for his or her own personal use, that \$60 be paid to the district.
  11. Voting will end at 12 p.m. at the Celebration, so votes can be counted and winners announced by 1 p.m., the end of the event.
  12. The district and its designees assume no responsibility for lost or late entries.
  13. The district and its designees reserve the right not to accept entries that are considered inappropriate for the contest.
  14. The district reserves the right (a) to suspend or cancel the contest in its sole discretion and (b) to select winners from among all eligible entries received prior to the cancellation date. The district further reserves the right to modify the rules of the contest in any way or at any time, as long as reasonable notice is given.
  15. The rules of this contest may change if situations beyond the district's control occur between now and the conclusion of this contest. Any changes to the rules will be posted on the district's website [www.PorterCountyRecycling.org](http://www.PorterCountyRecycling.org). For further information, please contact Gabrielle at Porter County Recycling & Waste Reduction, (219) 465-3819 or via [gabrielle@portercountyrecycling.org](mailto:gabrielle@portercountyrecycling.org).

## Rain Barrel Design Competition

### **Suggested Design Materials and Method**

**Note this is suggestion. Rain Barrel Design at participant discretion.**

#### **Supplies needed**

1. Rain barrel
2. 1:1 mixture of vinegar and water
3. Painter mask
4. Masking/painter's tape/cloth
5. Plastic primer – Krylon spray paint "Fusion" adheres well to a rain barrel surface
6. Acrylic paints -- We recommend non-toxic or safe with the "AP Non-toxic" seal on the paint labels. Please do NOT use paints without this seal. Paint barrel and allow the paint to dry completely. Longer is better.
7. Water
8. Lint free cloth
9. Brushes
10. Sandpaper -- a 220 grit or finer

#### **Barrel Handling and Prep Tips**

- Stressing the fixtures (faucet or elbow) can cause their seals to leak. Please do not handle the barrels by fixtures, and when moving the barrels around, be careful not to kick the faucet or bump it against things.
- The interior should not be painted. One way of keeping splatter out of the inside is to remove the screen, wrap it with a small piece of newspaper, and reinsert it. Be careful to push down on the screen frame, not the screen itself, so the screen does not pull away from the frame.
- The fixtures should not be painted and must be protected from paint.
- The barrel needs to be cleaned, sanded, and primed before it is painted. You must be able to apply the primer immediately after sanding, as the surface will re-wax if left.
- Barrel prep should take you about an hour. Detailed tips can be found below.

#### **Detailed Prep and Painting Tips**

Step 1: Clean the exterior surface with a 1:1 mixture of vinegar and water.

Step 2: Use the sandpaper to "rough up" the surface of the barrel. This process helps the paint adhere to the plastic barrel.

Step 3: Rinse barrel with clean water (static may try to hold the fine dust) and dry with lint free cloth (or leave it in the sun until dry).

Step 4: Cover the faucet and overflow with tape to prevent primer, paint and polyurethane from adhering to them.

Step 5: Apply at least one coat of plastic primer, and allow drying per manufacturer's instructions. Krylon is chip resistant within seven days!

Step 6: Now the barrel can be painted any way you like. Acrylic paint works best on these plastic barrels. Please use safe, non-toxic paints as described under supplies.

For further details, please contact Gabrielle at 219-465-3819.

## **Drop-Off Form**

**Please include this form at time of delivery with rain barrel to the Porter County Expo Center.**

1. **Teacher Name:**
2. **School Name:**
3. **The class/group that designed the barrel:**
4. **Names of the students that worked on the barrel:**
5. **Grades of the students who worked on the barrel:**
6. **Theme illustrated by the barrel artwork:**
7. **Materials used to decorate the rain barrel:**
8. **Contact/Teacher phone number:**
9. **Contact/Teacher email address:**
10. **What will you do with the barrel at the end of the Earth Day Celebration? Please check one:**
  - a.  I want the barrel to return to my school so the school may collect rain water or use it as a fundraising tool. I will take it with me when the contest ends at the end of the Earth Day Celebration.
  - b.  I would like to purchase the barrel for \$60 (\$60 due upon drop-off). I will take it with me with the contest ends at the end of the Earth Day Celebration.