



Scarecrows on Parade

We invite you to participate in our **Scarecrows on Parade Contest** at Monk Botanical Gardens' Blossom of Lights event. Let your imagination run wild and enter to win awards and prizes. **This event runs October 5-November 1, Thursdays-Saturdays.** To get your creative juices flowing, consider the possibilities of scarecrows with harvest or botanical themes, storybook or movie characters, cultural or historical figures, or something specific and unique to Wausau or Wisconsin.

Rules and Regulations

One entry per individual (child, youth, adult) or group (organization or business). **Sign up online by 5:00PM on September 30, 2023.** Entry categories include:

- Adult
- Child (Under 12)
- Youth (13-17)
- Family
- Organization or Business

Please construct entries by hand, and we encourage the use of natural and recycled materials. Please, no commercial costumes, plastic masks, etc. The Scarecrow must be movable (25 pounds or less), and be at least 4 ft tall, but no more than 7 ft. Each scarecrow should have a base of no more than 4 x 4 ft. Participants will receive 8 ft. T-posts to secure the scarecrow. The Scarecrow must be sturdy, durable, and able to withstand wind, rain, and snow. You should not use perishable goods or glass in the construction or display, and you should securely attach all materials. We ask that you periodically check on your scarecrow to do any needed repairs or maintenance. If the scarecrow is not holding up, we reserve the right to take it down and will notify you before doing so.

The Scarecrows on Parade Contest and Blossom of Lights event are family-friendly. Scarecrows can be whimsical, mischievous, or lovable, but not frightening to anyone (other than crows). No gruesome, bloody, or especially scary entries will be eligible. Monk Botanical Gardens reserves the right to disqualify entries they feel to be distasteful and not family-friendly.

Entries should be compatible with Monk Botanical Gardens' Core Values: Stewardship, Awareness, Inclusiveness, Respect, and Excellence.

Learn about the Gardens' values: <https://monkgardens.org/visit/plan-your-visit/vision-values-history/>

Please name your creation when registering. We will display this along with your name (or group's name), competition category and QR code for voting, on a laminated sign to hang on your scarecrow.

Contestants should assemble scarecrows prior to arrival and set-up at Monk Botanical Gardens (1800 N. 1st Ave., Wausau, WI 54401). **Set-up will be Wednesday, October 4, between the hours of 3:00PM-6:30PM and Thursday, October 5, between the hours of 10:00AM and 1:00PM.** Volunteers will be on hand to direct you to your scarecrow's location. Please bring any tools or materials needed to secure your scarecrow.

All entries will be on display during Blossom of Lights hours October 5 through November 1. Each entry will receive three complimentary passes to enjoy Blossom of Lights for one evening and view your creation on display. **Please arrange to remove your scarecrow November 7-10, during operating hours (7:30AM-4:30PM).** Please note that after November 10, it becomes the property of Monk Botanical Gardens, and we reserve the right to dispose of leftover scarecrows at our discretion.

Voting

People's Choice Award: The visiting public will cast votes for the People's Choice Award for Scarecrows on Parade, during the first two weekends of Blossom of Lights. Visitors will vote with the use of a QR code, which will be available on each entry's sign. We will announce the winners through Facebook Live at the close of voting on October 14.

On the first night of the event (October 5), a panel will judge the Scarecrows and select winners among the following categories. We will announce winners that night via Facebook Live.

- **Best in Show Adult Category**
- **Best in Show Child Category**
- **Best in Show Youth Category**
- **Best in Show Family Category**
- **Best in Show Business or Organization Category**
- **Most Wisconsin or Wausonian**
- **Most Whimsical**
- **Best Garden or Botanical-Related Theme**
- **Best use of Repurposed or Recycled Materials**
- **Best Expression of Diversity and Inclusivity**

It is understood that Monk Botanical Gardens may use photographs of, stories about, and the actual scarecrow entries themselves as non-personal information contained on the entry form for publicity and promotion of this event. We will not use personal contact details submitted through the entry form except to contact entrants with details about the contest and to follow up with prize winners.

Find the registration form at

<https://blossomoflights.org>