



Solid Waste Management District

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2026 Recycled Christmas Ornament Contest Guidelines

Dear Teachers,

The Clinton County Solid Waste Management District is pleased to announce that it will once again be hosting the **Recycled Christmas Ornament Contest** for students in grades K-5. The purpose of this contest is to educate the students about the 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) by actively engaging them in a creative way of reducing and reusing everyday household waste. As the sponsor of this event, our goal is to involve as many students and their families as possible in order to create a greater awareness of recycling and waste reduction; therefore, we **encourage students to make these ornaments at home**, with help from their families.

On the reverse side of this sheet you will find the **Contest Guidelines**. Please feel free to copy the guidelines and send them home with your students once you have filled in the deadline for when you need the ornaments returned to your class. Please keep the attached baggie for your winning classroom ornament. **Remember, only ONE ornament per homeroom class will be accepted.**

Easy 3-Step Process for Teachers

1. Homeroom teachers should make contest information available to students. (Simply copy the guidelines on the reverse side of this sheet and send them home with the students. Remember to fill in **your deadline** before copying.)
2. Each homeroom teacher should select **one** winning ornament from his/her homeroom class. Complete the label with the student's information and place that ornament in the provided baggie.
3. Submit the winning ornament to the school's main office by the end of the day on Friday, Nov. 13th.

Deadline:

November 13, 2026

The winning ornament from each homeroom classroom must be turned in to the school's main office no later than 4:00 PM on 11/13/2026.

A member of the SWMD will be at your school on Monday morning (11/16/2026) to pick up the winning ornaments from the office.

Sincerely,

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Jeff Walls
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2026 Recycled Christmas Ornament Contest Guidelines



Contest Rules:

- **The ornaments must be made of recyclable or reusable materials.** Glue, paint, glitter, floral wire, etc. may be used, but the main emphasis of the contest is to see what can be created with recyclable materials. (Judging will be based largely on the number of recyclable items used.)
- **The ornament must have a hook or hanger to attach it to the tree.**
- **Ornament MUST be small enough to fit inside a CLOSED gallon-size resealable baggie** (ornament size no larger than 6" x 6"). The ornament should be relatively light in weight, so as to not bend the limbs on a Christmas tree.
- **The materials cannot pose a safety hazard to the creator or those observing the ornament.** Avoid the use of sharp, toxic, or easily breakable materials.
- **Perishable items should NOT be used.** Also, please avoid using seeds, nuts, pinecones, etc.
- **The following information must be included on a label or tag affixed to the ornament:**
 - 1) Student's Name
 - 2) Grade
 - 3) Homeroom Teacher
 - 4) School

Deadline:

All ornaments must be submitted to homeroom teacher by _____ to be entered into the homeroom judging. One ornament from each homeroom will then be submitted to the Solid Waste District for the county contest. **Teachers: Your winning homeroom ornament must be turned into the school's main office in the provided baggie by Friday, November 13th.**

Our goal is to create a greater awareness of reducing and reusing everyday household waste, and it is our desire to involve as many students and their families as possible. Therefore, **students are encouraged to make these ornaments at home, with help from family members.**

Prizes/Awards

Homeroom Winners: Each Homeroom winner will receive a fun, recycled-content prize pack. These winners will also have their ornaments displayed on the Christmas tree located at the Clinton County Administrative Campus.

County Winners: From the collection of Classroom winners, 10 overall County winners will be selected with a minimum of one winner from each grade. In addition to the homeroom-winner prizes mentioned above, the 10 County winners and their families will be invited to a special awards ceremony where these County winners will be formally recognized and presented with additional recycled-content prizes.