



**Taltree**  
arboretum & gardens®

## Taltree Trail of Scarecrows Contest K-5: Scholastic Scarecrows

- Registration due:** **Friday, September 23, 2011** (Forms & rosters)
- Essays due:** **Tuesday, October 11, 2011** (Email the essay to [aclemens@taltree.org](mailto:aclemens@taltree.org))
- Pick-up/Drop-off location:** **Monday & Tuesday, October 10-11, noon – 6 pm**  
**Directions:** Take U.S. 30 to County Road 500 W (in-between Merrillville & Valparaiso, IN). Turn south on County Road 500 W and proceed 2 miles to the second brown Taltree sign for “Offices/Classroom.” Continue down the lane until you see a tan-colored barn where the drop-off point is located.  
71 N 500 W  
Valparaiso, IN
- Award Ceremony** **Saturday, November 5, 2011, Time: TBD** Each student listed on the registration will be admitted free to the Award Ceremony. A roster must be provided & the names will be listed on a VIP guest list at the gatehouse.
- Scarecrow pick-up:** **Tuesday & Wednesday, November 8-9, noon – 6pm** Scarecrows not picked up by 6 pm Wednesday, November 9 will be discarded. Consider pick up a recycling opportunity. Remember, your scarecrow will not be in great shape after a month in the arboretum and teardown.
- Entry fee:** **Free!**

### Guidelines & Entry Rules

- Any K-5 school class or K-5 group is welcome to participate. Entries must be original and not pre-made. A class roster must be submitted at time of registration.
- Three top winners will be chosen by popular vote from the public. Each entry must include a scarecrow, scarecrow name and 150-200 word essay about the scarecrow.
- All bases must be capable of supporting the scarecrow in a freestanding or seated manner. Scarecrow base must not exceed 3.5 ft in width or length. Height is limited to 6 ft tall.
- Taltree reserves the right to remove any scarecrow that deteriorates to an unacceptable level during the month. Please make your submission as weather-proof and indestructible as possible!
- Taltree is not responsible for loss or damage to scarecrows while on display or in the drop-off/pick-up areas. Please do not use valuable materials/objects as the scarecrows will not be monitored.
- Taltree will provide identifying signage for your scarecrow and install all scarecrows.
- Do not include live plant material, mulch, Tiki torches, flammable objects or gas/electric powered generators with your entries.
- No handouts, promotional material or free giveaways can be associated with your entry.
- Taltree reserves the right to use photographs, school names, contact names and scarecrow names for publicity purposes.
- Entries must be suited for viewing by small children. Entries that are controversial, commercial, political or graphic (sexual/gory/scary) in nature will not be accepted.



## 2011 Theme: Scholastic Scarecrows

Choose a book or story from your current curriculum. As a class/group, build a scarecrow and write an essay based on the chosen story or its characters. Your essay should reflect how your scarecrow represents the chosen story or characters.

### What to do:

1. Register with Taltree by Sept. 23 by filling out the Trail of Scarecrows registration form
2. Choose a story or book
3. Read the book and decide what to represent from the story
4. Collect items from your community to use to build your scarecrow or visit Taltree between Sept. 26 and Sept. 29 to pick-up free resources
5. Start building the scarecrow and developing an essay
6. Finalize the 150-200 word essay describing the scarecrow and how it best reflects the chosen story
7. Submit the essay to Taltree via email to [aclemens@taltree.org](mailto:aclemens@taltree.org) by Oct.11
8. Finish your scarecrow and drop it off to Taltree on Oct. 8 or Oct. 9

### Resources:

Taltree will have a selection of recycled items available to use in the construction of scarecrows. These items are free. They are available on a first come, first served basis. Items can be picked up at the Taltree main office (address listed above) between Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 10am and 4pm.

### Academic Standards:

Taltree's contest can be used to meet the following Indiana State Standards for English/Language Arts for K-5:

K.3.3	K.5.1	K.5.2	1.3.1	1.5.1	1.5.2
1.5.3	1.5.4	1.5.5	2.3.1	2.3.3	2.5.5
2.3.7	2.5.2	2.5.2	2.5.6	3.3.2	3.3.3
3.3.4	3.5.2	3.5.5	3.5.7	4.3.3	4.3.4
4.5.4	4.5.5	5.3.1	5.3.3	5.5.6	5.5.7

### HELPFUL HINTS

- Scotchgard® works to protect clothes against mildew.
- Stuffing can be made from many materials. However, water-soluble materials degrade faster than others (like newspaper).
- Plastic bags & bubble wrap work well. Newspaper stuffed inside plastic bags works well, too.
- Use weather-resistant material, like nylon & polyester.
- Ideas for the head: stuffed pillow case, gourd, milk jug, ball, or wood
- Ideas for hair: shredded plastic, moss, old mop, yarn
- Scarecrows stay outside in the arboretum, so make sure everything is secure. Sewing works best, but large safety pins or staples will work.
- A great resource: Scarecrows: Making Harvest Figures and Other Yard Folks by Felder Rushing