

## Heathcote Botanical Gardens 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Garden Fest 2024 Scarecrow Contest

We invite you to participate in Heathcote Botanical Gardens' 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scarecrow Contest to coincide with the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Garden Fest. Scarecrows will be on display from October 4<sup>th</sup> through October 13<sup>th</sup>. The theme is "**Garden Hippie**", a throwback to the flower child era of the late 1960's and early 1970's.

### Rules and Regulations

- Entering is free; however, **\$10** is appreciated. This will help cover the cost of the frame supplies.
- One entry per individual or family
- Companies, groups & organizations may have up to 4 separate entries (think about team building and healthy competition).
- Scarecrows must have a GARDEN HIPPIE theme and must be handmade using the Heathcote provided frame of 3-feet by 7-feet (up to 2' goes into the ground for stability), must be moveable (25 lbs. or less), and must be self-supporting and able to handle Florida weather.
- No commercial costumes, rubber, or plastic masks, balloons, etc. will be allowed.
- No perishable goods, glass or appliances may be used in construction or display.
- No electricity will be available.
- All decorations and props **must be firmly attached and weather tolerable**. CAUTION: items secured with hot glue will not survive the heat and paper items will not withstand the rain
- Scarecrows must be assembled prior to arrival and set up at Heathcote Botanical Gardens during the hours of 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from October 2<sup>nd</sup> – October 4<sup>th</sup> and drop off appointment must be made so volunteers or staff can be on hand to direct you to your scarecrow's location.
- Entries after October 4<sup>th</sup> will NOT be accepted.

Heathcote Botanical Gardens' annual Fall Garden Fest and the Scarecrow Contest are family friendly and Heathcote representatives reserve the right to disqualify entries they feel to be distasteful or not family friendly.

- Scarecrows should be whimsical, humorous, mischievous, and/or loveable – staying within the theme.
- Entries should NOT be frightening - monsters, gruesome, bloody, or especially scary entries will be disqualified.
- Name your creation. This, along with your name (or your group's name) and assigned number will be displayed next to your entry. Heathcote will provide signage.

### Voting

- All entries will be on display from **October 4<sup>th</sup> through October 13<sup>th</sup>** and voting will be allowed through the Fall Garden Fest being held October 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The contest is a fundraiser benefiting the work and efforts of Heathcote Botanical Gardens. **Entrants are requested to do their own fundraising on behalf of their scarecrow.** The entry with the highest donated funds wins.
- Votes will be counted by Heathcote officials.
- Winner will be notified by phone on the morning of October 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Winning scarecrow will receive a coveted "Trophy".

- All scarecrow entries **must be picked up no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**. If you do not pick up your scarecrow, you will forfeit the right to have your scarecrow returned and it will become the property of Heathcote Botanical Gardens. We will have the right to dispose of leftover scarecrows and their respective props at the Gardens' discretion. **Please don't do this, we really don't want your stuff.**

**Ideas to get your creative juices flowing:**

- Remember that all Scarecrows must have a Garden Hippie theme!
- Traditional Harvest Figures: these scarecrows are typically old-fashioned figures constructed from "throw-aways" from home. Clothing, hay, stuffing, burlap, farm implements are a few ideas of the traditional scarecrow items.
- Humorous Scarecrows: these scarecrows should at a minimum evoke a smile! Current events, storybook characters, cartoon characters, or out-of-the-ordinary situations are just a few ideas. These characters should be fictional.
- Celebrity Scarecrows: use your imagination! These can depict a modern-day celebrity or one from your past.



Strawlly Parton

It is understood that Heathcote Botanical Gardens may use photographs of, stories about, and the actual scarecrow entries for publicity and promotion of the event.

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Participant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your scarecrow creation: \_\_\_\_\_

The display will be exhibited from October 4<sup>th</sup> - October 13<sup>th</sup>. I understand that my entry must be in place by October 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. and removed after Fall Garden Fest and no later October 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

