



2026 EARTH DAY RECYCLING ART CONTEST

THEME

What Earth Day Means to ME!

- ☀️ What does Earth Day mean to you? ☀️
- 🌿 Why do we celebrate Earth Day? 🌿
- ☁️ How do you celebrate Earth Day? ☁️

✿ What do you think other people should know about Earth? ✿

Show us what Earth Day means to YOU through a 3-D piece of art made of trash, recyclables, and/or repurposed materials.

Tips

Recycled items can have a whole new look if they are painted, or broken up into smaller pieces. Hot glue is a great fastener for heavier materials - please ask for adult assistance. Materials used in past posters include: egg cartons, bottle caps, scrap paper, puzzle pieces, popsicle sticks, milk cartons, toilet paper rolls, etc.

Prizes All 9 finalists (*3 in each group*) receive prizes!

Gift cards, restaurant coupons, and more!

Finalist posters will be on display at Escondido Arts Partnership Municipal Gallery during the month of April.

ESCONDIDO

Eligibility & Grade Categories

The contest is open to all students, grades K-8, in Escondido public and private schools. The categories are:

- Kindergarten-2nd Grade
- 3rd-5th Grade
- 6th-8th Grade

Poster Specifications

Students must make a poster or 3-D art piece on sturdy paper no larger than 12" by 18". Students should use primarily recycled materials/trash/etc. to create their posters.

For Teachers

In previous years, teachers have been able to submit no more than 2 poster contest entries per class. Beginning in 2026, teachers may submit any/all student entries that meet the above Poster Specifications. One entry per student.

Posters must be ready for City staff to pick up from your school secretary on an agreed upon pickup date. Please email emma.potratz@escondido.gov to schedule a pickup date on or before the contest deadline. Make sure you include the following information on the back of each poster:

- **Student's full name**
- **Grade**
- **Teacher's name and email address**
- **Student's home phone number**
- **School**

Deadline

All posters must be picked up/received by City staff by:
Friday, February 27, 2026

Judging

Posters will be judged by City staff on the following:

- Representation of the contest theme
- Originality
- Artistic skill
- Use of recycled materials

The top 9 winning posters (*1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category*) will be displayed at the Escondido Arts Partnership Municipal Gallery during the month of April.

Student & Teacher Awards

Each of the 9 finalists and their teachers will receive gift cards, personalized souvenirs, and other prizes. Their posters will be displayed at the Escondido Arts Partnership Municipal Gallery on Grand Avenue.

Sponsors

The contest is sponsored by the City of Escondido which demonstrates its commitment to preserving a safe and clean environment through this contest and other conservation programs. The Escondido Arts Partnership Municipal Gallery supports the poster contest as a program that provides education through art.

Contact

For additional information, or to schedule an in-class poster presentation, contact:



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