

# STERLING RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S THIRD ANNUAL SCARECROWN CONTEST

## ELIGIBILITY:

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Scarecrow Contest is open to all ages, individuals, families, clubs, groups & businesses. Each person, family or group may only enter one time. Participants must be Sterling residents.

**MOUNTING SUPPORTS & REGISTRATION:** All participants must register with the Rec. Dept. prior to October 18th. The Rec. Dept. will provide mounting, which are to be picked-up at time of registration. There will be a \$ 10 entry fee to cover the cost of the supports. Please provide this payment at time of registration.

## ENTRIES:

- Scarecrows must be durable and able to withstand outdoor weather. Use care in choosing your materials. All decorations must be firmly attached to your scarecrow.
- All entries must be hand-made
- No perishable goods may be used in the construction of your scarecrow (i.e., pumpkins, squash, etc.).
- "Scenes" may not be created for your scarecrow. Items should not be placed on the ground around your scarecrow.
- Scarecrows must also be done in good taste and should not reflect controversial, social or political situations. *Sterling Recreation Department reserves the right to disqualify or remove entries they feel to be distasteful or not family friendly*
- Sterling Recreation is NOT RESPONSIBLE for the security of the scarecrows on display.

**DROP-OFF:** Entries should be brought down to the Town Common between October 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Participants will be responsible for securely installing their entries.

**JUDGING:** Members of the Recreation Committee will judge all eligible entries on October 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. They will judge entries based on creativity, originality, and craftsmanship.

## AWARDS PRESENTATION:

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> places will be awarded congratulatory ribbons on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Winners need not be present to win. Ribbons will be placed on the winning entries and the scarecrows will remain on display through October to allow the public a chance to view your hard work, creativity and the contest results. Results will be posted to the Recreation Department website.

**PICK-UP:** All entries may be picked up Nov. 1 – Nov. 4. The Recreation Department will dispose of any unclaimed scarecrows by Nov. 4

*Sterling Recreation Department reserves the right to use photographs and names of the scarecrows for promotional use.*

## Helpful Hints for Making Your Scarecrow

- Spray Scotch guard on the inside and outside of the clothing to prevent mildew
- Stuffing can be made from many materials, but newspaper and water-soluble peanuts are not recommended. Plastic bags, bubble wrap and ½ gallon plastic milk jugs work well. These items make your scarecrow light and easy to move around.
- Use weather resistant materials including nylon and polyester fabrics.
- Scarecrows will be outside, so be sure everything is secure.
- Create your scarecrows face and head features before securing it to the body
- Ideas for scarecrow heads include gallon milk jugs, stuffed pillow cases, plastic pumpkins, flower pots and buckets. There are also trash bags with pre-printed faces that can be stuffed and attached as well.
- Use string and rope to help you tie off the opening of the arms and legs so the stuffing doesn't fall out. Use wire, carpet thread, and safety pins to join body parts. Shoes should be as lightweight as possible and should be wired on
- Stuffing will always settle in time so as you stuff your scarecrow, shake it down several times to pack it tightly.
- Have fun & be creative!

*When planning your project please take into consideration that the bottom stake will be placed in the ground 3"-6"*

