



City of Oakwood Annual Scarecrow Contest Sunday, October 11, 2026

The Parks & Recreation Department is pleased to host Oakwood's Annual Scarecrow Contest. We invite community members to showcase their creativity by designing a scarecrow to help decorate the city for the fall season. Entries may be traditional, whimsical, humorous, or artistic—just please avoid anything frightening.

Judging Criteria Entries will be evaluated on originality, creativity, detail, use of color, overall appearance, and imagination.

Registration Deadline Entry forms must be submitted by Thursday, October 8 at 9:00 pm to the Oakwood Community Center, 105 Patterson Road.

Judging Judging will take place on Sunday, October 11 at 2:30 pm. **All entries must be in place by 1:30 pm.** Awards will be presented for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, along with the Mayor's Award.

Location Scarecrows will be displayed along Shafor Boulevard. Participants will receive their assigned locations once entry forms are processed.

Entry Conditions and Rules

- The contest is open to Oakwood residents only. An entry form must be submitted to the Oakwood Community Center (105 Patterson Road) by Thursday, October 8 at 9:00 pm. All scarecrows must be named.
- Eligible participants include scout troops, school and church groups, organizations, businesses, families, and individuals residing in Oakwood.
- Only one entry per individual or group.
- Entries may not contain advertising, political messages, religious statements, or any offensive or inappropriate content. Designs must be suitable for all ages.
- Scarecrows may not exceed eight (8) feet in height or width. They may be freestanding, staked, or attached to the designated light post. No props will be provided.
- Scarecrows must be constructed to withstand typical outdoor weather conditions, including wind and rain.
- Participants are responsible for setting up their own displays. Scarecrows may be secured with rope, twine, or tie wraps.
- No perishable materials may be used unless they are replaced regularly for the duration of the display.



- A name is required for each entry. The Parks and Recreation Department will provide a sign for each scarecrow, to be posted at its assigned location once the display is complete on the contest date.
- One (1) bale of straw and two (2) cornstalks are available upon request. Indicate this on the entry form if you wish to receive these materials.
- The City reserves the right to remove any entry that does not comply with these rules. The City is not responsible for loss or damage to any scarecrow. The City may photograph entries for promotional purposes, and all photos will become the property of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Scarecrow Set-up

Official entrants are responsible for the installation of their scarecrow on Sunday, October 11 between the hours of 9:00 am and 1:30 pm. Scarecrows will remain on display through Saturday, October 24.

Scarecrow Take-Down

All scarecrows must be removed on Sunday, October 25. Beginning Monday, October 26, any entries left will be removed and disposed of by the City of Oakwood.

Building Tips

Scarecrows have been made from just about everything over the centuries, so feel free to get imaginative! Whether your creation turns out charming, silly, artistic, or a tiny bit spooky, the most important part is to have fun while you bring it to life.

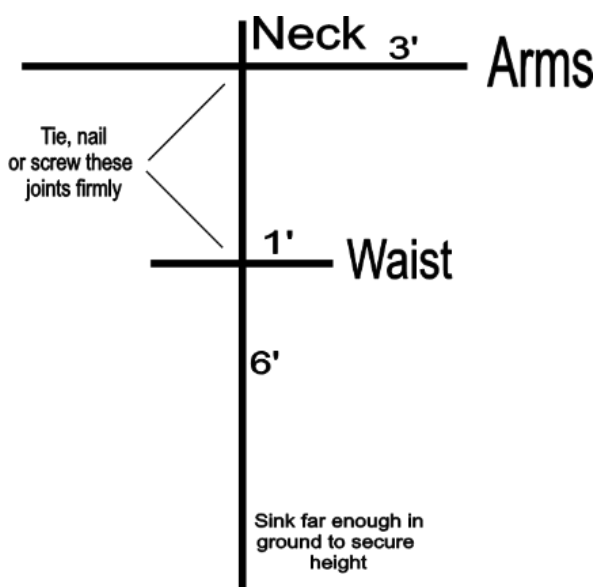
Start with a Plan

Every great scarecrow begins with an idea. Once you've got your vision, build a sturdy frame, add stuffing for the body, and dress it up with clothes or any materials you wish.

Want fancy shapes or extra flair? Chicken wire can help you sculpt arms, curves, or dramatic silhouettes. Props are welcome—they bring your character's personality to life!

Think About the Weather

Your scarecrow will be hanging out outdoors for a few weeks, so choose materials that can handle a classic Oakwood fall. Arms and legs at fun angles look great—but make sure they don't turn into wind traps. Newspaper is easy to use for stuffing, but it may droop after a few rainy days. Try sturdier options like straw, plastic bags, or old clothes to keep your creation looking its best.



Thank you for being part of this wonderful community event!



City of Oakwood
Department of Parks and Recreation
2026 Scarecrow Contest Entry Form



Name of Group _____

Name of Submitter _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Telephone _____ (day) _____ (evening)

Name of Scarecrow _____

Description of Scarecrow _____

I/We will need ☐ straw ☐ cornstalks

I/We would like to ☐ pick up our hay/cornstalks ☐ have our hay/cornstalks delivered
Date _____ to site the day of the build

I/We hereby agree to follow the rules of the 2026 Scarecrow Contest as outlined. I/We also hereby release and hold harmless the City of Oakwood and its employees from any and all claims for loss, damage or injury incurred by scarecrow participants. I/We will also be responsible for its removal as outlined. Photographs of all entries become the property of the City of Oakwood's Department of Parks and Recreation. Photographs may be used in various publications, community calendar, publish presentations, advertising, publicity and promotion relating thereto.

Signature _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Must be signed if participant is a minor.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

LOCATION ASSIGNED _____