

Rain Barrel Painting Contest - Updated

Limestone County Master Gardeners

Anyone can compete by designing and painting the best rain barrel. No age limits. This contest highlights the benefits of using rain barrels to reduce rainwater runoff and improve our waterways.

A rain barrel is a container that collects and stores the water from roofs and downspouts for future uses such as watering lawns, gardens, and house plants; cleaning off gardening tools; and washing your car. Rain barrels help to lower your water bills, particularly in the summer months by collecting thousands of gallons of free water a year!

Design: There is no required theme to the art work. However, contestants are encouraged to consider an environmental theme. Painted rain barrels will be judged according to how well the design fits the theme, creativity, and neatness. Painted rain barrels will be displayed and judged at the KALB sponsored **EARTH DAY event on Saturday, April 25, 2020 -- KALB 2020 Earth Day and Outdoor EXPO** at **Athens State University** from **10:00AM-3:00PM**. Learn more at KALBcares.com.

Awards: 1st and 2nd place will receive a \$30 and \$20 gift card. No cash. Each person attending Earth day may vote once for their favorite barrel at the Limestone County Master Gardener Table. Some of the painted Rain Barrels may be for sale/auction at Earth day.

Materials: Acquire and paint a plastic barrel between 30 and 65 gallons that is either a fully assembled and functioning rain barrel or a barrel capable of being easily made into a functioning rain barrel. **Recommendation:** It is best to use two coats of quality outdoor primer. You will need brushes, various colors of acrylic paints (plastic spray paint is also good) and a clear topcoat is also recommended for it to last outdoors for years (the painting needs to be durable and permanent). After acrylic paint is applied, allow at least 48 hours of drying time before applying the top coat. The topcoat will also prevent the paint from chipping and fading. Already primed and ready to paint rain barrels may be **purchased** from Limestone County Master Gardeners Assoc. for \$50.

Deadline: Drop off painted barrels NO LATER THAN 9:30 a.m. at the Earth Day event on Saturday, April 25th, or you can drop it off on Saturday, April 18th at the Master Gardener Greenhouse behind Athens Middle School during the annual plant sale. Complete the short contestant application prior to or at time of drop-off. All judging will be completed by 1:00 p.m. on April 25th at the Earth Day event. Winners announced and awards presented at 1:30 p.m. Participants can then pick up their barrels. You may donate your Rain Barrel to either LCMG or KALB if you do not want to take it home.

Painting and Planning Guidelines: The spigot area on the rain barrel will serve as the front and where the design should center. Try to avoid any impressed labeling on the barrel and choose the smoothest side to paint your design. Usually, the back of the barrel will be against a wall and that 20% of the barrel does not need to be painted with a design but the barrel needs to be completely painted with the theme color. Artists are not allowed to adhere anything (such as paper, tiles, ribbons etc.) to the barrels. **Artwork may include one small logo; i.e. website of artist, etc., if desired**, but the overall theme cannot be a commercial advertisement. Please avoid topics of a political, religious, or sexual nature. The finished barrel is subject to approval by the Rain Barrel selection committee before it is displayed at the Earth Day event on April 25, 2020. Barrels can be displayed with interpretive signage and handouts that explain the benefits of rain barrels. Attachment signs may include the artist's contact information and the artist's interpretation of their work. KALB and LCMG and partners are not liable for any damage to the barrel during the display period. The artist authorizes photographs to be taken and distributed/published of their artwork upon submission of their finished barrel to the event competition; i.e. newspaper, social media, etc.

To obtain a barrel or for MORE INFORMATION, please contact: Rick Pressnell email eastprecinct@yahoo.com or 703-965-9161.

LCMG Rain Barrel Contest Application for Participation.

LCMG and KALB are sponsoring a contest to educate the community on the benefits of using rain barrels to reduce rainwater runoff and improve our waterways. Participants are invited to paint creative designs on a rain barrel. The 30-65 gallon plastic barrels should have a coat of primer and preferably a top protective clearcoat. The participant is responsible for supplying their own rain barrel and paint for their design. To apply for participation in this program, please complete and submit this application. It may be submitted with the completed barrel or in advance.

KALB and LCMG and partners are not liable for any damage to the barrel during the display period. The artist authorizes photographs to be taken and distributed/published of their artwork upon submission of their finished barrel to the event competition; i.e. newspaper, social media, etc.

Names of all contributing artists / organization / school:

Contact Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Physical Address: _____

Mailing Address (if different): _____

Email: _____

In the space below, please describe your artistic rain barrel design.

Signature: _____ Date: _____