



2026 Morris County Sustainability Art Contest

This year, the Morris County Clean Communities Program will be expanding our county-wide art contest with the goal of sparking creativity within students while teaching them about the importance of litter prevention and cleanup. Clean Communities is a statewide program that aims to change attitudes about litter through cleanup, educational, and enforcement efforts. We strive to create a unique learning experience for the public to learn about the importance of reducing our litter.

This art contest includes three different art categories, which aim to have students creatively reuse littered items and/or communicate to others about litter abatement.

Below are the details for:

- Art Categories & Guidelines
- Submission Process
- Workshop Day
- Morris County MUA Sustainability Art Contest Award Ceremony

Please reach out to mchavanne@co.morris.nj.us for any questions or concerns.

Categories

This art contest will have four categories that students may submit artwork for. The categories are as follows:

1. Multi-Media Art Design

The multi-media art design category encourages students to create artwork to promote litter prevention and cleanup activities through any media they choose. Students are encouraged to think outside of the box through unique art forms (i.e. sculptures, embroidery, sewing, painting, etc.). Both 2D and 3D submissions will be accepted so long as they meet the specified dimension size.

Animations, photography, and other digital arts are **not** eligible for submissions.

Open to grades 5-12

- *3D submissions must be no larger than 1'x1'x1'*
- *2D submissions must be no larger than a 22"x28"*
- Includes recycling and litter prevention messaging.



- If promoting recycling and litter prevention activities (i.e. items that can be recycled), ensure it is accurate.
- Include artist's name, grade, school, and category.
- Was submitted by the deadline.

Award: Will be displayed at the Morris County Library, small gift, and certificate. This category can have up to four winners.

2. Upcycled Art Design

The recycled art design category encourages children to reuse materials to create a 2D or 3D art piece. Everything in this category must be reused, with a focus on including objects that are commonly littered (i.e. bottles, cans, clothes, straws, etc.). An exception to this is the art supplies used to compose the design, such as paint, ink, and glue.

Open to grades 5-12

Guidelines:

- *3D submissions must be no larger than 1'x1'x1'*
- *2D submissions must be no larger than a 22"x28"*
- Must use all upcycled materials and/or common littered items (not including coloring or gluing supplies)
- Include artist's name, grade, school, and category.
- Must accurately portray correct recycling techniques.
- Was submitted by the deadline.

Award: Will be displayed Morris County Library and will receive a small gift and certificate. This category can have up to four winners.

3. Sticker Design

Students will submit sticker designs that promote litter prevention and cleanup activities. Examples can include messaging on protecting wildlife and waterways from litter, keeping our roads clean, and other ways to Keep Morris County Litter Free. Be creative and find fun ways to share this message!

Animations, photography, and other digital arts are **not** eligible for submissions.

Open to grades K-12



Guidelines:

- Must be no larger than an 8.5x11 inch sheet of paper. Keep in mind, designs will be scaled down.
- Details must be visible when scaled down.
- Please use bold colors to ensure designs are visible when printed. i.e. markers, ink, paint, dark colored pencils and crayons.
- Include the phrase "Keep Morris County Litter Free".
- Include artist's name, grade, school, and category.
- Must accurately portray correct recycling techniques.
- Was submitted by the deadline.

Award: The winning designs will be turned into stickers that the Morris County MUA will distribute at educational community events throughout the year. Winners will also receive a certificate. This category can have up to 6 winners.

Submission Process

Each school will need to register by March 13, 2026, by submitting the attached school registration form. Please email this to Michelle Chavanne at mchavanne@co.morris.nj.us.

Schools must submit student artwork by April 22 (Earth Day!) but can be submitted earlier. Email Michelle to schedule a drop-off / pick-up date and time. Below are the number of submissions each school may submit for each category:

- Multi-Media Design Category: Up to 10 submissions for 3D pieces, and up to 30 submissions for 2D pieces.
- Upcycled Art Design Category: Up to 10 submissions for 3D pieces, and up to 30 submissions for 2D pieces.
- Sticker Design Category: Unlimited number of submissions.

Only one submission is allowed per student.

Students participating outside of their school, such as homeschoolers, may deliver their artwork to the Morris County MUA building on April 13 - 22, between 8:00am to 4:00pm, at 370 Richard Mine Road, Wharton NJ, 07885.

If a student's design wins, their guardian must submit a photo release form for permission to photograph the student with their design. **Once designs are submitted, they will become property of Morris County.**

For each piece of artwork, the following information must be included:



- The student's first and last name
- The student's school
- The student's grade level
- The category the student wishes to submit their artwork for (if this is unclear, the Morris County MUA will determine the most applicable category)

Upcycled Art Workshop Day

To build community and increase litter education among participating students, the Morris County MUA will be hosting a Workshop Day where artists (students) may meet at the Morris County Library to work on their artwork with friends. The Morris County MUA will provide basic supplies to assist students with their artwork, such as coloring supplies, gluing supplies, and recycled materials. **However, artists are encouraged to bring their own supplies to ensure they have everything they require for their project.** Artists that are unable to bring their artwork for any reason are still encouraged to participate and enjoy the day with their friends and family, collaborate with their peers, and ask questions about the contest.

The Morris County MUA will have activities and a presentation for the artists to learn the importance of keeping Morris County litter free.

The Workshop Day will be on Saturday, February 7th, 2026, from 2:30 to 4:15 pm at the Morris County Library, 30 East Hanover Ave, Whippany, NJ, 07981. **This is not a drop-off event; children must be supervised.**

Please RSVP to mchavanne@co.morris.nj.us to confirm the number of attendees.

Morris County MUA Sustainability Art Contest Awards Ceremony

The Morris County MUA will host an awards ceremony to congratulate our art contest winners. We hope to see the winners and their families in attendance to congratulate them on their accomplishment and to view their artwork in the library. Parental permission slips must be submitted before the event for all winners. All artwork will be displayed at the library throughout the month of May.

Date & Time: Thursday, May 14th at 6:30pm

Location: Morris County Library Public Meeting Room, 30 East Hanover Ave, Whippany, NJ, 07981