

2026 – Fifth Annual
**WATCHUNG SCARECROW
STROLL & CONTEST**
Registration Packet

**OCTOBER 17TH
THROUGH
NOVEMBER 1ST**



*Sponsored By: Mayor & Council, The Traffic & Beautification
Commission, Recreation Commission, Watchung Arts Center, and
Watchung Library Advisory Committee.*

Welcome to the 2026 Fifth Annual Watchung Scarecrow Stroll and Contest!

We are excited that you are participating in this year's Scarecrow Stroll. The Scarecrow Stroll is sponsored by the Traffic and Beautification Commission, Recreation Commission, Watchung Arts Center and Watchung Library Advisory Committee. Entries will be open to all residents, families, scouts, schools, clubs, first responders and businesses in the Borough of Watchung. Your creativity and development of your Scarecrow will be judged by High School Art Students and prizes will be donated by Coldwell Banker.

The Scarecrow Stroll installation will take place the weekend of October 17th and 18th. Installation must be completed by October 20th. The removal of your Scarecrow must be completed by November 1st - 3rd. Donuts and Cider will be provided on the first day of installation, Saturday, October 17th from 10:00am to 12:00pm. All scarecrows will be removed & discarded by November 4th.

Create your own unique "family-friendly" scarecrow. It can be wild, funny, furry, silly or ridiculous, but in good taste for all ages. Please give your scarecrow a name. Use your imagination; scarecrows should be handmade and no taller than 4 feet. Scarecrows should be built to withstand the elements (wind, rain, sun). Scarecrows may not be built on a wooden or rigid frame. Scarecrows will be attached with zip ties to an assigned "post rail" fence at the Watchung Lake, Village Green.

We hope you will enjoy creating, stuffing, developing and promoting your unique **family-friendly Scarecrow which will be on display from October 17th through October 31st**.

*Contest held on: **Wednesday, October 21st**. Judges: W.H.R.H.S. Art Students. The winner will be posted on the Borough website.

INSTALLATION GUIDELINES

And

SCARECROW TIPS

SCARECROWS:

- No taller than 4ft. tall
- Built to withstand varied weather conditions
- No rigid or wood frame
- No flammable, electrical or battery-operated items
- No handouts, promotional materials or free giveaways
- No weaponry of any kind

Checking on your scarecrow throughout the contest for necessary repairs will keep your scarecrow looking at its best. **The Scarecrow Stroll ends on October 31st, and all scarecrows need to be removed by November 1st – 3rd.** *Watchung Borough is not responsible for anything damaged, lost or stolen. We reserve the right to remove any scarecrow or scarecrow elements that do not meet these family-friendly standards. Any scarecrow that is left after November 3rd will be removed and discarded by the DPW maintenance crew.*

SCARECROW TIPS/SUPPLIES:

Consider using old shirts, pants, buttons, hats, gloves, socks, glue, pillowcases, yarn, felt tip pens, rubber bands, safety pins, bamboo poles, ropes, craft wire, recycled shopping bags stuffed with newspapers, straw or rags (good for stuffing scarecrow). Creativity and having fun making your scarecrow are your goals. Give your scarecrow a name that represents your creation. This is your chance to express yourself.





PROCEDURE

Download an entry form from the Borough website. Go to watchungnj.gov and click on “Scarecrow Stroll Contest” or pick up a Scarecrow entry form between September 21st through the October 16th at the Watchung Borough Hall, 9:00am-3:00pm – Monday through Friday.

Your completed Registration Form (page 7) and Parent/Guardian Release forms (pages 8-10) must be received at the Borough Hall by 3:00pm on Friday, October 16th. Once you return the necessary documents, you will receive a scarecrow packet with installation kit and post number for your scarecrow.

(Installation will take place: October 17th and 18th and must be completed by October 20th, before the judging contest on October 21st.)

Your SCARECROW PACKET will include:

- ***LABEL FOR SCARECROW*** (4X6 index card) and plastic bag for protection and must include the name of your scarecrow and name of organization, club or family. Blue – ages 12 & under and White – ages 13 & over. Businesses and First Responders are encouraged to participate and will be judged in a special category.
- **A POST NUMBER** for your installment at the Village Green at Watchung Lake.
- **SPRING CLIP** to attach the 4” x 6” index card to the left shoulder of your scarecrow. Blue denotes ages 12 & under, White for ages 13 and over.
- **ZIP TIES** to secure your scarecrow to post located at The Village Green at Watchung Lake. The posts and rail fence that runs along the waterfall will have a number on the post. Install your scarecrow at your designated post number.



CONTEST

Voting: **Voting Takes Place On Thursday, October 21st**
The winners will be announced at the Harvest Festival on Halloween, October 31st from 12:00pm to 3:00pm (Rain date November 1st) and also on the Borough's website.

All Entries: **All Entries** (i.e. All scout groups, Little League, Softball, First Responders, school clubs, Borough Departments, families, any residents, First Responders and local businesses.)

Categories: 12 years old and under (noted by blue index card)
13 years old and over (noted by white index card)
Businesses and First Responders (noted by pink index card)

Prize for

each category:	<u>12 years & Under</u>	<u>13 years & Over</u>
	1st PLACE: \$50.00	1st PLACE: \$50.00
	2ND PLACE: \$50.00	2ND PLACE: \$50.00
	3RD PLACE: \$25.00	3RD PLACE: \$25.00
	Honorable mention - \$25.00 gift card.	
	Businesses/First Responders - \$25.00 gift card.	

Judging Criteria: **Creativity of your Scarecrow**
Composition and Overall Design
Idea and Concept
Descriptive Name of Scarecrow
Adherence to the Family Friendly Theme
Color Scheme
Overall Presentation of your Scarecrow

*Prizes donated by: Susan Tucker/Coldwell Banker



**Thank you for participating in this wonderful
program that unites our community in
beautification, creativity and fun!**

ScareCrow Stroll Registration Form

(Return to Borough Hall by 3pm, Friday October 16th)

NAME OF FAMILY OR ORGANIZATION/CLUB:

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CELL NUMBER:

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EMAIL:

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NAME OF PARTICIPANTS WITH AGE RANGE:

PARENTAL CONSENT:

PRINT NAME	SIGNATURE	DATE
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() Yes, please sign me up for the Watchung email updates your email address will not be shared and you can opt out at any time

**FOR WATCHUNG RESIDENTS, CLUBS, FAMILIES, SCOUTS, SCHOOLS,
BUSINESSES AND FIRST RESPONDERS.**

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Parent/Guardian Media Release Form

(1 of 2)

Child's Name:

This notice is to provide permission to use your child's photo/image and personal information on our town's online and printed publications. As you are aware, there are potential dangers associated with the posting of personally identifiable information online, since global access to the Internet does not allow us to control who may access such information. While understanding the limitations, it's important to celebrate your child's work and achievements by publicizing them. The law requires that we ask for your permission to use pictures and other information about your child.

We will release your child's name, photo and information about the activity or event in which your child has participated or has been honored.

Return to Borough Hall by 3pm, October 16th

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Parent/Guardian Media Release Form

(2 of 2)

By signing below, I _____, the parent or legal guardian of
_____ [Child or Children]

grant the Borough of Watchung my permission to use the photographs and information described in the description above relating to the Borough of Watchung's Annual Scarecrow Stroll + Contest for any legal use, including but not limited to: publicity, copyright purposes, illustration, advertising, and web/social media content. This permission does not expire and may only be revoked if in writing and served upon the Municipal Clerk.

Parent/Guardian:

Date:

Return to Borough Hall by 3pm, October 16th

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Hold-Harmless Form

By signing below, I _____, the parent or legal guardian of
_____ [Child or Children]

agree that I will indemnify and hold harmless the Borough of Watchung (the "Borough"), from and against all losses, claims, suits, reasonable attorney fees, or other legal liability and legal expenses of any nature imposed upon or brought against the Borough by reason of any act or omission arising from my installation and participation in the Borough's Annual Scarecrow Stroll + Contest. This hold harmless agreement shall also pertain to any claims due to the Borough's negligence.

Parent/Guardian:

Date:

Return to Borough Hall by 3pm, October 16th