Thank you for helping the North Georgia Zoo presents this wonderful fall event to the public. Your support makes this event happen and we are so thankful to you for your interest in Scarecrow Trail. Thousands visit the Zoo each fall and we feel visitors will look forward to the Scarecrows each year. Your creativity and hard work makes your ‘crow get noticed and helps advertise your name, along with making our event better.

**Contest rules:**

1. **Theme Scarecrows. We recommend creating a scarecrow around a theme or character.**  Be creative and have fun and include this theme in whatever you are trying to promote.

1. Entry Fee is **$10** per ‘crow for individuals, schools, and non-profits. The fee for businesses is **$20**.

**We recommend getting Entry Forms and Fees submitted by the 2nd week of September**. This is so we can make sure we have enough time to create the signs to go with each scarecrow before the SCT opening.

1. **Set up will begin 2nd week of Sept and run through First Week of October from 9:00-5:00 p.m.** Special appointment times may be accommodated at other times on request. **We recommend calling ahead to let us know you are coming to set up your ‘crow to make sure someone is here to assist you. Please call 706 348 7279 or email** **info@wildlifewonders.org****.** Each scarecrow will be assigned a location & number. The scarecrows will be attached to pre set stakes throughout the zoo. We recommend using a five to six-foot tall PVC pipe 1 ½ “ form that can be placed over the set stakes at the zoo. This makes installation of your ‘crow easier and provides support to hold your crow up. If you prefer, you may make your scarecrow free standing. A sign indicating the name and builder of the scarecrow will be provided and installed by zoo staff.
2. **Scarecrows should be complete (or nearly finished) by installation day.** Staff will assist you in transporting your ‘crow to its designated location, but may not be able to remain with you in the as other appointments will be waiting. You may stay to finish preparing your scarecrow. **Scarecrow locations are not decided on or until installation day.**
3. Scarecrows must be in good taste; those that reflect controversial social or political situations will not be accepted. North Georgia Zoo is a family friendly zoo. No witches, gosts, or other scary characters. Scarecrows must be constructed to withstand weather conditions. North Georgia Zoo reserves the right to remove any scarecrow that does not meet these standards.
4. North Georgia Zoo is not responsible for any loss or damage to entries.

**It is your responsibility to check on your Scarecrow periodically and freshen**

**it as needed-especially after inclement weather.** Your entry represents your family,

non-profit, school, or business; thus, you’ll want it to look great the whole season. Please assist

us in helping us insure that Scarecrow Trail looks great for the whole fall season by checking it

periodically.

**Prizes:** The public will judge their favorite ‘crows throughout the month of October. Prizes will be given out in first, second and third place.

**All entries must be kept on display until Monday, October 31.** Please assist us in taking down your Scarecrow. Take down will be the First week in November. Please note: Any scarecrow left in the Zoo past that point are not guaranteed to still be their later. Please call ahead if you want our scarecrow but cannot come pick it up by the end of the first week in November

 North Georgia Zoo reserves the right to use photographs of the scarecrows for future publicity.

**Please contact Hope Bennett at** **Hope@wildlifewonders.org** **or call 706 348 7279 for further information. North Georgia Zoo & Petting Farm, 2912 Paradise Valley Road, Cleveland GA 30528 Fax: 706 522 4514**

**TIPS FOR MAKING SCARECROWS**

1. Scarecrows will be subject to the weather for two months, so they need to be **constructed with weather-resistant materials and scotch guarded.** Clothing that does not fade easily, such as nylons and polyesters, hold up better than cottons.
2. Scarecrows can either be freestanding or built around a PVC form. The PVC form is recommended but not required five to six feet high with two feet wide shoulders. The PVC pipe should be 1 ½ “ so that it fits over a stake installed and provided by the zoo.
3. Stuffing can be anything, **but newspaper or water-soluble peanuts will not work or hold up to weather.** Plastic bags hold up for months. Newspaper can be placed inside plastic bags for stuffing.
4. Facial expression is the first thing a viewer will notice. For the head options could be an old milk jug, gourd, pot, wood, ball, pillowcase, or burlap bag (with painted or sewed on face).
5. Ideas for hair: yarn, broom, corn, shredded plastic, moss, raffia, or old mop head.
6. Clothes are usually the easiest part and FREE - or nearly so. Check out thrift stores for colorful and cheap clothing and accessories.
7. These ‘crows stay out in the zoo so make sure everything is secure. Sewing is best, but large safety pins or staples will work well. Clear tape will not hold up to weather, but colored electrical tape works well. Remember the wind will blow anything not secured well and can rip things pinned at corners.
8. Remember the details - a glittering pair of high-heeled shoes, for example, will make all the difference.
9. Do not use latex gloves, as they quickly disintegrate outdoors. Gloves can be used for hands and stuffed and then covered in electrical tape to help them hold up to weather.
10. Spray Scotchgard inside and out of clothes to prevent mildew, and on all items.
11. Larger crows (requiring more ground space than a standard crow on a frame) can be accommodated, but please coordinate this with us so that we can plan for the larger space needs.

Thank you for helping the North Georgia make Scarecrow Trail a success! Be creative, have fun, and make your crow’s shine.