



2026 SCARECROW CONTEST & SHOWCASE

Presented by



Registration Packet

The Contest takes place in Downtown Eatonton from
October 1, 2026 through October 31, 2026.
Winners will be announced on November 2, 2026.

Downtown Eatonton Scarecrow Contest & Showcase

Rules and Entry Form

Presented by Smith Communications, Inc. | Hosted by Eatonton Main Street

Eligibility

The contest is open to all individuals, families, civic groups, non-profit organizations, schools, churches, clubs, businesses, and government entities.

Registration & Fees

- **Pre-registration is required.**
- **Deadline:** All entries must be submitted by **September 23rd**. Late entries will not be accepted.
- **Entry Fee:** \$30 per submission (non-refundable).
- **Payment:** Check or money order only, made payable to *Eatonton Main Street*. No credit cards or electronic payments accepted.
- **Submit Entries:**
In person at the Eatonton Main Street Office (inside City Hall)
Or mail to: Eatonton Main Street PO Box 4384 Eatonton, GA 31024

Note: Scarecrow locations will be assigned in the order entries are received.

Prize Categories & Awards

Non-Business Category

(Open to individuals, families, clubs, civic groups, and non-profits)

- **1st Place:** \$500 cash
- **2nd Place:** \$250 cash
- **3rd Place:** \$100 cash

Business Category

(For registered businesses only)

- **1st Place:** \$800 in advertising from Smith Communications, Inc.
- **2nd Place:** \$300 in advertising from Smith Communications, Inc.
- **3rd Place:** \$200 in advertising from Smith Communications, Inc.

Smith Communications, Inc. is a six-generation publishing company based in Eatonton, GA, and publishes several local newspapers and magazines.

Scarecrow Setup & Removal

Setup:

- September 25–30
- Participants must check in at City Hall between **10 AM–4 PM** to receive their display location and a required identification sign.

Removal:

- Must be completed between **November 1–3**.
- Scarecrows not removed by **November 4** will become property of Eatonton Main Street and are subject to a **\$100 removal fee**.

Clean-Up Requirement:

- All trash and display materials must be removed.
- Local merchant dumpsters and trash bins may not be used.
- Area must be left clean and orderly.

Construction Guidelines

- Scarecrows must be **handmade** and constructed to withstand outdoor weather.
- **Cut pumpkins** and other perishable materials are discouraged due to spoilage.
- Live plants are allowed but must be maintained (e.g., watered).
- Acceptable props: corn stalks, bales of straw (only on non-grassy areas), benches, bicycles, etc., as long as they remain within your designated space.
- **Loose hay or straw is prohibited.** Hay bales wrapped in twine or they can be wrapped in clear plastic to prevent shedding.



- Scarecrows must be monitored throughout October for maintenance.
- **Structures must be free-standing.** No part of the display may be secured to:
 - Railings
 - Benches
 - Trash cans
 - Planter boxes
 - Business awnings
 - Lampposts



- **Securing your Scarecrow and/or parts of the display will result in elimination from the contest. This applies to all contest participants.**

Prohibited Attachments:

- **No stakes, spikes, or poles** may be driven into concrete.
- Use surface weights (e.g., sandbags, bricks) to secure displays.

Lighting:

- No access to city electrical outlets will be provided.
- Use **battery-operated or solar-powered lights** only.
- Displays found using city electricity will be disqualified.

Display Location & Size

- All Scarecrows will be placed **along sidewalks** in front of downtown businesses.
- **No displays allowed on the Putnam County Courthouse lawn.**
- **Maximum display size:**
Width: 3 feet (measured from the wall outward)
Length: 8 feet (measured parallel to the building)

No height limit, but tall displays must be secure and weather-resistant.

Display Identification

Each participant will receive a **numbered sign** with their name. This must be visibly displayed with the Scarecrow.

- **Political content is not allowed.**
- **Business entries may include advertising**, but only one business per entry.

Judging & Public Voting

- All displays must be completed by **September 30th** to be eligible for judging.
- Judging criteria: **complexity, detail, use of props, creativity, and overall appearance.**
- Voting will take place:
 - Online via QR code
 - In person at City Hall during business hours
- **Winners announced via Facebook Live on November 2nd**
- Prizes can be collected from City Hall during business hours the following week.

Disclaimers & Liability

- Eatonton Main Street, the City of Eatonton, and affiliated agents are **not liable** for damage to any Scarecrow entries or for injuries that may occur during participation.
- By entering, participants agree that their displays and likeness may be used in promotional photos and materials related to the event.

Need Help or More Info?

- Visit: www.downtowneatonton.com
- Email: director@downtowneatonton.com

**Downtown Eatonton Scarecrow Showcase
Entry Form**

Name of Entry (Business name, Non-Profit Name, Church Name, Family Name, etc.):

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Is your business located in Downtown Eatonton? _____ Yes _____ No _____ N/A

If yes, would you like to set up your scarecrow in front of your business? _____ Yes _____ No

Please check the appropriate competition category:

_____ Business _____ Family/Individual _____ School _____ Church

_____ Government Entity _____ Civic Organization _____ Non-Profit Organization

Will you have battery operated or solar powered lights? _____ Yes _____ No

Briefly describe your Scarecrow design: _____

A **non-refundable entry fee** must accompany the entry form.

Make check payable to Eatonton Main Street.

Entry fee of \$ _____ is enclosed.

I have read and agree to abide to all terms and conditions pertaining to the 2026 Scarecrow Showcase and Contest.

Signature

Date

Please submit your entry form to Eatonton Main Street, PO Box 4384, Eatonton, GA 31024 by September 23, 2026.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Application Received: _____

Date Entry Fee Received: _____