

Public invited to vote online through June 9 for best artwork in DNREC-sponsored rain barrel contests

DOVER – The public’s art appreciation is sought in voting for favorite entries [now online in the 2017 artistic rain barrel contest](#) sponsored by DNREC’s Watershed Assessment and Management Section within the Division of Watershed Stewardship. DNREC sponsors the contest as a fun way to educate the community on the benefits of using rain barrels to reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality.



The winning adult artistic rain barrel in DNREC’s 2016 contest.

Eight local artists and 10 entries from youth or groups of young people were selected to paint creative designs on their rain barrels. [Online voting](#) continues through Friday, June 9 for selecting this year’s winning rain barrel artworks.

DNREC chose the artists based on their applications and designs. After being selected, the artists had five weeks to paint and return their barrels. All artistic rain barrels in this year’s contests are now on display for public viewing at the Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village in Dover through July 18.

Five adult finalists and five youth finalists will be determined by [online voting](#). The five student finalists will have their rain barrels displayed to be voted on by Delaware State Fair visitors for determining the grand prize winner,

while the adult grand prize winner will be chosen by a panel of judges. Results for the youth rain barrel contest will be announced, and the grand prize winner of the adult contest will be recognized, on Governor's Day (Thursday, July 27) at the fair.

Following the contest, the artistic rain barrels will be dispersed for display at local events, businesses, schools, churches and with local governments. Businesses, organizations and non-profit groups interested in displaying an artist's rain barrel, please contact Sara Wozniak at <mailto:sara.wozniak@delaware.gov> or 302-382-0335.

Rain barrels are used to collect and store 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 are also important for the environment because they help reduce water pollution by decreasing the amount of stormwater runoff reaching Delaware's streams and rivers.

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