



2025 - 2026

YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL AMBASSADORS!

The Cen-Tex Sustainable Communities Partnership in collaboration with Fort Hood Child & Youth Services (CYS) School Liaison Office Adopt-A-School Program are kicking off the school year with the Youth Environmental Ambassadors! (YEA!) program to empower youth to make a meaningful difference within their school's footprint and community and lead in sustainability efforts in the Central Texas region. Schools are challenged to participate in one or more of the initiatives.

During the March 2026 Sustainable Environment Month Proclamation Signing and Environmental Ambassador Award Ceremony, senior leadership from the Cen-Tex Partnership will recognize top schools for recycling, energy conservation and beautification efforts based on environmental impact and volunteer efforts. Many of the initiatives highlights requirements for project reports and/or photos to be submitted. Flyers within this packet include links to directly access the project reports.

The following districts are eligible to participate: Killeen ISD, Copperas Cove ISD, Belton ISD, Temple ISD, Salado ISD, Lampasas ISD, Jarrell ISD, Florence ISD, Oglesby ISD, and Gatesville ISD. Public and private schools within these districts, including the city of Harker Heights, Nolanville, and Fort Hood, are encouraged to participate in the YEA! Program.

Public schools have an Adopt-A-School unit and are encouraged to use this program as a resource to help with interested environmental initiatives. If you do not have a unit point of contact, please call the CYS Fort Hood School Liaison Office at 254-553-3341 and the requested information will be provided.

- 1 Oct - 30 Nov** Pull Together to Make a Difference
- 1 Oct - 30 Nov** Texas Recycles! Poster Contest
- 1 Oct - 30 Nov** YEA! Recycled Art Contest
- 1 Oct - 31 Jan** Lights Out Lunch
- 1 Oct - 9 Feb** School Beautification Challenge
- 15 Nov - 15 Dec** Greater Fort Hood Area Recycle Bowl

 254-535-1008

 CenTexYEA@outlook.com
christine.a.luciano.civ@army.mil

 Facebook.com/CentexSustains

 Scan the QR Code or click below to register for the YEA! Program:



<https://forms.office.com/r/txWRgZzARc>

YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL AMBASSADORS!

PULL TOGETHER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Did you know?

The funds generated from recycling these aluminum gems help offset the Ronald McDonald House of Temple's expenses.



Scan the QR Code or click below to access and submit the Project Report by: **Dec. 1**

<https://forms.office.com/r/Q3MFWz1n1e>



Little things like pull tabs can make a big difference! Help support families and children through the Ronald McDonald House of Temple's Pull-Tabs Program by collecting and donating the aluminum tabs you pull to open soda, soup, and other cans.

The program is a popular way to get kids involved in learning to help others and donating to charity. From classrooms to after school programs, it's easy to start a collection in your school and help make a difference in the community and environment. The winning school will be based on the total weight of pull tabs collected.

Coordinate for pull tabs to be picked up by calling or emailing:

254-535-1008

254-553-3341

CenTexYEA@outlook.com

christine.a.luciano.civ@army.mil



***Note, schools have the option to take pull tabs directly to the Ronald McDonald House of Temple.



Email action photos to

CenTexYEA@outlook.com

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YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL AMBASSADORS!

TEXAS RECYCLES! POSTER CONTEST

All PreK-12 students are invited to showcase their artistic talent and their commitment to the environment by participating in the 9th Annual Texas Recycles! Poster Contest. Students are encouraged to be creative and artistically highlight a range of themes from recycling and pollution prevention to conservation and beautification.

Poster Requirements:

Posters created by students must be their own original artwork. Copyrighted characters or copyrighted clip art will not be accepted.

The back of the poster must include the:

- Student's name
- Grade
- Teacher's name
- School

Size & Layout:

Maximum Size: 12"x18"
Landscape layout only!

Materials:

Students may use a variety of media, such as watercolor, pen and ink, crayon, chalk, markers, etc. Students are encouraged to incorporate recycled or recyclable materials into their creations. Note: If students are incorporating recyclables into their artwork, depth is restricted to half an inch.

Judging Procedure:

The posters will be grouped in one of the following three grade categories:

- Pre-K through 5th grade
- 6th through 8th grade
- 9th through 12th grade

Judging Criteria:

1. Clear message conveyed by the text and artwork.
2. Creativity, originality and artistic quality.
3. Visual clarity - easily read.
4. Bright and colorful.
5. No copyrighted artwork or name brands are used.

**DEADLINE
FOR
ARTWORK
SUBMISSION:
DEC. 1**

**Winners will be
recognized and
artwork will be
displayed and featured
by represented
community!**

**Coordinate for posters
to be picked up by
calling or emailing:**

**254-553-3341
254-535-1008**

**CenTexYEA@outlook.com
christine.a.luciano.civ@army.mil**

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YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL AMBASSADORS!

RECYCLED ART CONTEST

All PreK-12 students are invited to showcase their artistic talent and their commitment to the environment by participating in the YEA! Recycled Art Contest. Students are encouraged to be creative and artistically highlight a range of themes from recycling and pollution prevention to conservation and beautification.

Email pictures of artwork and the following information to CenTexYEA@outlook.com & christine.a.luciano.civ@army.mil:

- Student's Name & Grade
- Teacher's name & School
- List of materials used

Art Specifications

- Do not use trash.
- Do not purchase 'new' materials unless it is a poster board or foam board to use as a base for the sculpture.
- Materials must be at least 75% recyclable material.
- Artwork CANNOT exceed 2 feet in any dimension.
- May use glue, wire, tape, twine or string, or any other adhesive method.
- Submission must be original work.

Deadline: Dec. 1

Winners will be recognized and artwork will be displayed and featured by represented community!

Judging Procedure:

Artwork will be judged by the Cen-Tex Partnership. The top 3 winners in each of the grade categories will be recognized and presented an award:

- Pre-K through 2nd grade
- 3rd through 5th grade
- 6th through 8th grade
- 9th through 12th grade

Judging Criteria:

- Effective use of recycled/reused materials.
- Originality and innovation.
- Creativity.
- Overall presentation.



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YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL AMBASSADORS!

Lights Out Lunch

1 OCTOBER - 31 JANUARY

SAVE
NOW

THINK
CONSERVE
ENERGY

In an effort to bring environmental awareness regarding energy conservation to schools, the Lights Out Lunch initiative aims to encourage and empower students to reduce energy use in their schools by turning off the lights in the lunchroom or classroom at least once a month.

Why should my school promote energy conservation?

Energy use is a big part of a school's expenditure. Doing some small things can make a big difference for a school's energy consumption and energy bill. Also, reducing your school's energy consumption will help to reduce air pollution and solid waste. Turning off lights and powering down computers are some of the most effective energy-saving tips for schools. Many energy efficiency ideas begin with an awareness of where energy is wasted.

Raise energy awareness by:

- Making it fun by having activities or competitions around saving energy.
- Appointing energy 'champions' who are responsible for spotting energy waste and promoting energy efficiency.
- Keeping people informed about new ideas.
- Making energy efficiency a priority.
- Celebrating achievements.



Scan the QR Code or click below to access and submit the Project Report:

<https://forms.office.com/r/tVOC5CKzbi>

Deadline: **February 4**



254-535-1008



CenTexYEA@outlook.com
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**YOUTH
ENVIRONMENTAL
AMBASSADORS!**

SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION CHALLENGE

1 OCT - 9 FEB

The School Beautification Challenge aims to support students and teachers to bring nature, wildlife, and plants into their school garden and landscape spaces, to promote horticulture and biodiversity, and to give students an opportunity to interact with the environment in a positive way. Schools are encouraged to be creative and consider upcycling and use old materials instead of new ones; grow produce in raised beds and containers; promote biodiversity with bird boxes, nature trails, and use native flora; or create pollinator friendly areas. The opportunity to beautify a school's footprint is endless. The winner will be announced and recognized at the March 2026 Sustainable Environment Month Proclamation Signing and Environmental Ambassador Award Ceremony

Scan the QR Code or click below to access and submit the Project Report:
<https://forms.office.com/r/i7kXFJCP2Y>

Email action photos to:
CenTexYEA@outlook.com
christine.a.luciano.civarmy.mil

Deadline: February 13



TIPS FOR SUCCESS

- Enlist students, their parents, teachers, Master Gardener's clubs, and even neighbors in the community. Consider working with various organizations like Keep Texas Beautiful affiliates and local nurseries to purchase gardening materials and plants.
- Determine what type of garden bed or landscaping project you want to build and what you want to plant.
- Be creative and make your garden beds out of materials that could be donated or purchased with fundraisers.
- Determine who is going to monitor the garden beds during the summer and winter months.



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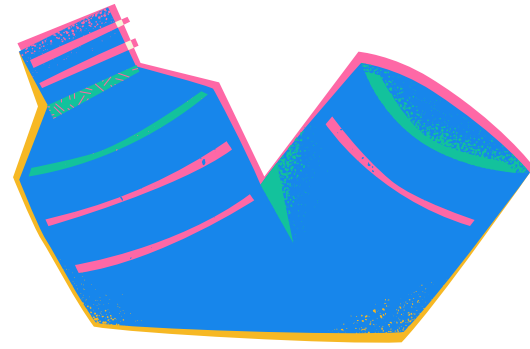
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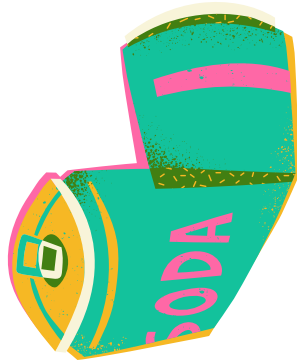


Youth Environmental Ambassadors!



Greater Fort Hood Area Recycle Bowl

NOV. 15 - DEC. 15



Material to be collected.

- Determine which materials to collect such as cardboard, paper, plastic and aluminum cans.

Recycle Receptacles.

- Is the school capable or willing to purchase recycle containers? Be creative. make your bins out of barrels or cardboard boxes.

Placement.

- Determine the best place to place containers to capture the most materials.

Monitor Containers.

- Determine who is going to monitor and empty the containers. Determine where the material is going to be stored until time to turn in. Get the students involved, start an environment club or check for clubs that are already in place.

Track Collection Weights.

- Determine a method to get an actual weight of the recyclables.

The Greater Fort Hood Area Recycle Bowl provides students with a fun, interactive way to learn about waste reduction and environmental responsibility through in-school recycling. Whether your school has an extensive recycling program or is just launching basic recycling collections, this recycle competition is an opportunity for students, teachers, and staff to engage their school community in a fun and friendly way.

How can my school compete?

Schools will track recyclable materials generated within their school's footprint. The competition will begin on America Recycles Day, 15 November and will end on 15 December. Winners will be based on the actual weight of recyclable material collected per capita (students + staff).

Scan the QR Code or click below to access and submit the Project Report:

<https://forms.office.com/r/Wlhk9YRQKG>

Email action photos to:

CenTexYEA@outlook.com
christine.a.luciano.civ@army.mil



Deadline: December 17



254-535-1008



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