

**KEEP AMERICA
BEAUTIFUL**

Presents



Celebrate America Recycles Day (ARD) At School

School Day Activities

- Hold an ARD **Pep Rally** at the end of Recycle-Bowl. Invite the school band to perform, or have students or athletic teams do skits about recycling. Or, get creative with a plastic bottle shooting contest with a recycling bin instead of a basketball hoop.
- Hold a special ARD **assembly**. Invite speakers from recycling-related businesses or facilities to tell students about recycling. Or, invite a school club to present.
- Coordinate a **field trip** to a local recycling center, a recyclable materials recovery facility, a recycling mill or plant, a local company, university, or military base with a well-established recycling program.
- Celebrate ARD with a **waste-free lunch or party**, with students, faculty, and staff bringing silverware, washable napkins, and reusable bags.
- Have an ARD **letter-writing campaign day** for students. Have students write letters to local newspapers or government officials to encourage recycling and buying recycled products.
- Organize a **school-wide clean up day** at a local lake, river, park, highway, or other site near your school. Recycle as much of collected materials as possible.
- Have an ARD **poster contest**. Display the winners in your school hallway and recognize students in the school newsletter, newspaper, or announcements.
- Have an ARD **recycled-material building contest**. Have students use only plastic bottles, cans, cardboard and a limited amount of tape and see who can make the tallest tower. Or, have them build bridges between two desks and see whose can hold the most weight. Assign teams to build competitive spirit.
- Have students sign the **ARD pledge card** confirming their commitment to recycling or put a large roll of paper out for students to sign the ARD pledge.
- Randomly award students and faculty seen recycling on ARD as part of a **"Get caught green handed"** promotion.

After School Activities

- **"Style Is Nothing New" ARD fashion show**. Have "designers" create outfits with garage sale or consignment shop clothing.
- Work with the school art teacher to host an ARD **recycled-material art show**. Have students bring in magazines, old holiday cards, broken jewelry, and anything else that

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can be glued or taped into a collage or sculpture. Showcase students' hard work and celebrate recycling with an open house for parents.

- Have students do an evening ARD **presentation, play,** or series of **skits** on recycling for their parents.
- Hold an ARD **festival**. Activities can include a recycled newspaper toss, recycle-themed Jeopardy, trivia quiz, an environmental habits assessment form, and informational displays.
- Celebrate ARD by soliciting volunteers to "**Adopt-a-Game**" where they pick up and recycle after an athletic event.
- Create an ARD **half-time show** for athletic events. Create banners for sporting events. Get the school mascot involved.

School Day and/or After School Activities

- Organize a school district-wide or school-wide ARD **swap day** for games, toys, school supplies and books.
- Hold a district-wide ARD **clothing or food drive** for a local charity.
- Pick a recyclable material, and hold an ARD **community-wide collection drive**. You could collect old batteries, phonebooks, cell phones, electronics, or another material that is less convenient to recycle than paper, plastic, or aluminum.
- Conduct an ARD **scrap art workshop** (e.g., bring in a local nonprofit group to facilitate a workshop in which students make art from scrap materials).
- Conduct a school "**dumpster dive**" and display the results and sort out the recyclables.
- Run an ARD **trivia contest in the school paper** or via the PA announcements promoting waste prevention and recycling & award prizes to winners.