

2025

SCARECROWS IN THE GARDEN

We invite you to participate in the Dothan Area Botanical Gardens' annual SCARECROWS IN THE GARDEN. This month-long event is the most popular activity hosted at our facility. The theme this year is "ALL THINGS MUSIC".

KEY DATES:

Registration Opens: August 1, 2025
Registration Deadline: September 16, 2025
Set Up Dates: September 26-29, 2025
Judging: September 30, 2025
Display Period: October 1, 2025 thru October 31, 2025
Open House: October 5, 2025, 2:00pm-6:00pm
Peoples Choice Voting: Oct 1, 2025- Oct 15, 2025
Peoples Choice Winner Announcement: Oct 16, 2025
Take Down Dates: November 1-4, 2025

GUIDELINES AND RULES:

-Anyone can register! Families, community groups, businesses, schools, individuals are all welcome to participate.

-Entry fee is \$20 per entry. Fee waived for schools.

-Each entry will be provided one free PVC framework to build your scarecrow on. Please note on registration form the style/size you want. Additional frameworks will be \$5.00 each.

Tips for building a scarecrow are available on the Garden's website (www.dabg.com). If you prefer, you can attend a free scarecrow-building workshop at the Gardens led by Sharon Nichols on Saturday, September 6, or Wednesday, September 10th. Both sessions will begin at 9:30am. Both workshops are free, but please register your attendance on the Garden's website.

-All scarecrows must be suitable for viewing by children. Scarecrows should be whimsical, humorous, mischievous or loveable—NOT overly frightening. Gruesome, bloody or especially scary entries will be disqualified. DABG reserves the right to disqualify entries we feel to be distasteful or not family friendly.

Due to weather, you are encouraged to check on your scarecrow frequently. During the display period, you are allowed free admission to check/repair your scarecrow.

-Please name your creation. The Garden provides signage identifying who created entry, sponsor(s) and the name of your scarecrow. DABG does not allow additional signage, pamphlets, or handouts to be displayed or distributed with your scarecrow.

-Scarecrows must be hand-made. NO commercial scarecrows or mannequins will be allowed.

-Entries will be judged by an outside committee on September 30th. Decision of the judges will be final. A Peoples Choice award will be selected by our visitors. All entries must remain on display until Oct 31st.

-Judging will be based on creativity, originality, adherence to theme, and quality of construction. \$100 cash prizes will be awarded to the top overall winner and to the People's Choice winner. \$75 cash prize will be awarded to second place winner & best school entry, \$50 to both third & fourth place.

-DABG reserves the right to use photographs of the scarecrows for publicity purposes.

-You are responsible for the take-down of your entry if you want to keep it. Scarecrows that are not picked up by 5pm on November 4th will be taken down and discarded. DABG is not responsible for any loss/damages.

-As a special treat, DABG will offer free admission as part of its Scarecrow Open House on **Sunday, Oct 5th from 2pm until closing at 6pm**. Visitors will be able to enjoy the scarecrows, walk the trails, and cast their vote for their favorite scarecrow.

-No refunds for cancellation of entries.