

Design a Colorado Eco Hero



Pick a Colorado Native Animal. Turn It into a Waste Reduction Hero.

Recycle Colorado is excited to launch a new creative challenge for students across the state! Instead of our traditional poster contest, we are inviting K-12 students to design a Colorado Waste Reduction Hero, a mascot inspired by a real Colorado animal who helps protect our state through recycling, composting, reuse, and waste reduction.

What would a mountain-loving waste hero look like? What animal would step up to protect Colorado's land, water, wildlife and your future? Now it's your turn to decide!

We hope you and your classroom are able to participate this year. Instructions for designing your mascot and submitting your design are included below. Please share this information with others who may be interested in participating!

Instructions for Designing a Mascot

Step 1: Choose Your Colorado Animal

- Pick a real animal that lives in Colorado.
 - Examples include: Black Bear, Elk, Mountain Goat, Prairie Dog, Bighorn Sheep, Red Fox, Raccoon, Golden Eagle, Snowshoe Hare, Trout, Ptarmigan, Skunk, Moose, Bison, or Mountain Lion
 - Here is a resource to help you find an animal that you want to design:
<https://cpw.state.co.us/species-profiles>

You may choose any Colorado native animal!

Step 2: Turn Your Animal into a Waste Champion

- Now transform your animal into a hero for waste diversion.
- Think about:
 - What waste problem does your mascot care the most about?
 - If they had a wastereduction/composting/recycling/reuse super power, what would it be?
 - How do they help people recycle, compost, or reduce waste?
 - What makes them uniquely Colorado?
 - Do they have a fun slogan?
- Your mascot might:
 - Wear gear made from reused materials
 - Carry a compost bucket
 - Have super recycling knowledge



- Protect forests and rivers from pollution and litter
- Teach people how to reduce contamination in recycling or compost

Be creative and have fun!

Step 3: Create Your Design

- Students may use:
 - Markers, colored pencils, paint, crayons
 - Reused cardboard or paper
 - Digital drawing tools
- Your submission should include:
 - A drawing of your mascot
 - The mascot's name
 - 2-3 sentences explaining: Their superpower, what they teach people, and their fun or catchy slogan
 - *Required for grades 6-12, Optional for K-5:*
- Designs or images of creations must be original artwork by students. Copyrighted characters (such as Superman) or copyrighted clip art will not be accepted.

Step 4: Submit a Photo of your design

- **Individual Student submission**
 - Take a clear photo of your design. Landscape (horizontal) or Portrait (vertical) layout will be accepted. Images of creations or posters in .jpg, .png, .pdf format will be accepted. Posters can be any size.
 - Name your file: Grade_StudentsLastName
 - Upload the image or file through our Google Form (<https://forms.gle/tyHuGFb2U6LpgTcW6>) or by email to info@recyclecolorado.org.
 - Release Form: Each student/adult must accept the artwork release statement included on the Google form. A copy of the release form that you can print out and sign is in this document below.
- **Bulk Classroom/Group Submission**
 - Take photos of each design. Landscape (horizontal) or Portrait (vertical) layout will be accepted. Images of creations or posters in .jpg, .png, .pdf format will be accepted. Posters can be any size.
 - Name each file in the following format: Grade_StudentsLastName
 - Fill out the "Bulk Submission Release Form" below in this document and include it in the email or upload of your student's designs.
 - To upload multiple files, please either:
 - Email them to info@recyclecolorado.org
 - Drag and drop files into this Google folder:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1pX_UyTCORIP0tmBcMxVras3AJwpajJ-ggVMmMljTrGw03fAfRMiljrCLcJGkWaMILbRFitGn?usp=sharing
 - Email info@recyclecolorado.org once all files and the release form have been uploaded.

All submissions must be received by: April 17th, 2026

Deadline

Design files or images and release forms should be received by Recycle Colorado **no later than April 17th, 2026**. You will receive a confirmation email once your submission has been reviewed following the deadline.

Eligibility

All students (kindergarten through high school) in Colorado public and private schools (including home schools) and youth organizations are eligible.

Students can work individually, as a team, or as a classroom to design a mascot.

Judging Categories

- Winners will be selected in multiple categories, including:
 - Most Colorado
 - Coolest Composting Champion
 - Most Radical Recycling Hero
 - Judges' Choice
- The winners and participating classrooms will receive stickers with their student's mascot printed on them.

Selected designs may inspire or become part of Recycle Colorado's future youth mascot and educational materials.

Suggested Focus by Grade Level

- K-2: Focus on drawing and naming your mascot
- 3-5: Design and name a mascot and give them a catchy slogan
- 6-12: Design and name a mascot, give them a catchy slogan, and a super power!

Why This Matters

Colorado's wildlife depends on clean land, water, and air. Your mascot can help inspire others to protect our state by reducing waste and recycling right. Your creativity could help shape how young people across Colorado think about waste!



Recycle Colorado Mascot Design Contest

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT RELEASE FORM

You may also submit online at <https://forms.gle/tyHuGFb2U6LpgTcW6>

Student Name _____

School/Organization _____

Grade (circle one): K-2nd 3rd-4th 5th-6th 7th-8th 9th-12th

School/Organization Address _____

City, State and Zip Code _____

School/Organization Phone Number _____

Teacher/Contact Name _____

Teacher/Contact Email _____

Student/Parent Email _____

Student/Parent Phone Number _____

I hereby certify that this poster was created entirely by the student above and is the student's original artwork and there are no copyrighted characters used. I agree that it may be offered for public display or publication at some time during or after the contest. I understand that this poster becomes the property of Recycle Colorado and may be reproduced without remuneration to the artist. The only information that will be released is the student's name, school, and grade.

Signature of Student

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Print Name

Print Name

Date

Date



Recycle Colorado Mascot Design Contest

BULK SUBMISSION RELEASE FORM

I hereby certify that these posters were created entirely by my students and it is the student's original artwork, there are no copyrighted characters used. I agree that it may be offered for public display or publication at some time during or after the contest. I understand that these designs becomes the property of Recycle Colorado and may be reproduced without remuneration to the artist. The only information that will be released is the student's name, school, and grade.

School/Organization _____

School/Organization Address _____

City, State and Zip Code _____

School/Organization Phone Number _____

Teacher/Contact Name _____

Teacher/Contact Email _____

Signature of Teacher/Adult _____