



2012 Rain Barrel Design Competition for Concord Community Schools



The New Hampshire Lakes Association and the Merrimack County Conservation District with its community partners the Concord YES Team and NH Department of Environmental Services are pleased to announce that a Rain Barrel Design Competition for Concord community schools will be taking place in an effort to promote watershed education and water recycling. Beginning February 2012 and running through April 2012, this design competition is an excellent opportunity for science and art classes to encourage student creativity together in sustainability education and environmental protection.

Rain barrels, typically 55-gallon barrels composed of plastic or wood, when attached to downspouts on buildings, or placed in strategic locations below rooflines, collect and store rainwater runoff from rooftops so that the water can be used later in beneficial ways (i.e. for washing the dog, watering the garden, or cleaning). Collecting rooftop runoff water reduces the amount of polluted water that flows off of the landscape and into nearby waterbodies. This also reduces the amount of water that owners draw from wells and/or local water supply plants.

As part of the school's participation the New Hampshire Lakes Association and the Merrimack County Conservation District will be offering a watershed education session and explanation of the program to students. **This is at no cost to the schools.** Rain barrels along with painting supplies will be donated to each class wishing to participate. After they have been painted, the barrels will be on display throughout Concord during late spring and summer and will be judged by community members through email and online voting. Winners will be announced at a community event.

Classes will have to the option to keep their finished barrels as displays or raffle items. They can also choose to donate them to the New Hampshire Lakes Association to be raffled or auctioned to generate funds for next year's program. Barrels and pictures of the decorating process and finished barrels may be used for future educational and promotional materials.

***Less runoff water from rooftops = Less pollution flowing into lakes and rivers
= Healthier waters for all to enjoy!***

The Timeline

Deadline to choose to participate: February 6th.

Deadline to submit your design: March 30th.

We ask that the painting of the barrel is completed by April 30th.

To Participate or for More Information Contact:

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**Turn a rain barrel
into a work of art!**