



White River Solid Waste Management District

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Serving Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Sharp, Stone, Van Buren, White and Woodruff Counties

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America Recycles Day is November 15th!

This national awareness day will be celebrating its 19th anniversary this year. America Recycles Day is the only nationally recognized day dedicated to promoting recycling in the United States.

How can you use this event as a teaching opportunity? For starters, visit the official web site, <https://americarecyclesday.org/toolkit/> for free downloadable ideas. Help your students plan a recycling event at your campus. Organize a recycling themed art contest – using recycled material as your medium.

As educators, the most important thing we can do is to teach by example. Do your school classrooms have paper recycling bins, does your place of work provide ways for employees to recycle, and do you practice it at home? Need help getting started? Visit our web site www.WhiteRiverRecycles.org, contact me via e-mail at recycle@wrpdd.org, or call 870-793-5233. We even have free classroom materials to reinforce your lessons. We hope you have a successful America Recycles Day event this year!

Think Outside the Recycle Bin

Recycling is more than cardboard, paper, plastic bottles, and aluminum and tin cans. There are many more recyclable and reusable items that should not go into your garbage can. These are just a few:

Electronics – TVs, computers, copiers, printers, fax machines, phones, cameras, notebooks, video game consoles, electronic toys, audio-visual equipment - drop them off at your county's collection center.

Glass Bottles and Jars – Because of limited market values, not all recycling centers can accept glass bottles and jars. Save them and drop them off when you are in an area that offers drop off service. In north central Arkansas those locations are Batesville, Mountain View, Newport and Searcy.

Printer and Ink Cartridges – Collect them from your school or

community and sell them to buy-back companies to help support your school, animal shelter, club or organization. Staples, Office Depot, Office Max and www.ecyclegroup.com will purchase used cartridges. (Note: we do not promote any one service over another. This is only an example of available services in our area.)

Waste Motor Oil – If your city or county does not offer a drop-off program, you can almost always take used oil back to where you buy your oil. Walmart, Auto Zone and Advance Auto are just a few that will take back used motor oil. Dumping it on the ground is a big mistake! It will kill the affected soil inhabitants and prevent anything from growing there for a long time.

Plastic Grocery Bags – Big chain stores like Walmart, Kroger, and Harps will take back any you bring in. Just look for the drop off bin near the store entrance. They are all made of polyethylene and do not need to be sorted store by store. Recycling centers in our area take only plastic bottles, so do not send them bags as they will have to landfill them.

Prescription Glasses – Your old prescription and reading glasses do not have to be thrown away. Check with your local optometrist or local Lion's Club member about donating them. They will be gratefully reused by someone less fortunate.

Fluorescent Tubes and Compact Fluorescents – To begin with, only buy the ones with the green tipped bulbs which contain the lowest amount of mercury. When you replace them, take them to a lighting store that will accept your old ones when you buy replacements. Lowe's, Home Depot and some lighting stores will usually take them back.

Batteries - Only rechargeable batteries are recyclable in rural Arkansas. The up-front cost is more, but in the long run buying rechargeable batteries plus a charger is the cheaper alternative, not to mention more environmentally responsible. Old rechargeable batteries of varying types and sizes can be recycled at stores like Tool Central, Radio Shack, Staples, Office Depot and your area electronic waste drop-off center. I am not sure what Wal-Mart takes, so check with them first.

All That Other Stuff – Fixable and reusable furniture, appliances, clothing, shoes, books, toys etc. Share with a less fortunate person or family in your community or donate it to a local benevolent organization. Give your trash a second chance!



Have you met Rocky of the Paw Patrol?

If you are a pre-school or early childhood educator, chances are you already have. The Paw Patrol is a Nickelodeon (Nick Jr.com) animated series about a group of puppies who serve their communities in positive ways: law enforcement, firefighting, and even an eco-puppy named Rocky. Rocky picks up things for recycling and reuse and fixes everything

he can. His uniform has a recycle symbol on it. We all need a "Rocky" in our school, work place, and community! (I can see a stuffed animal named Rocky and some Pup Patrol preschool books in my future. Christmas is not that far away!) Contact me at recycle@wrpdd.org for a free, downloadable Rocky coloring page.

Great Contest Opportunity for Your Students!

A very nice company I buy from, Earth Day Shirts, has just announced a student design art contest for their 2017 Earth Day t-shirts. If the winning design comes from your classroom, the entire class is a winner! Your class will get a \$500 gift card for needed supplies and every student will get a free Earth Day t-shirt. The deadline for submission is December 9th, so there is no time to waste. All entries will be posted on their web site for all to see. For more information, visit the following link:

http://www.earthdayshirts.com/contest.php?cmid=2016-11-earthcontest&offer=&promocode=&acct=C031942+White+River+Planning+&+Dev.+Dist.,+INC&utm_source=CMEmail&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=&bta_tid=334066036976000647537157074402453707844246314673070861487239117643801079108977579645192&bta_c=26kowrvb65g1xtq89muva67objjc

Classroom Helps

I am a fan of www.Scholastic.com and their Monthly Teacher Newsletter, even if they didn't include America Recycles Day in November's important days (I think it got replaced by the election this year!). Each month they provide themed lesson ideas and activities and free downloadable resources, all from a respected source. To get on their monthly e-mail newsletter, go to the web site link above, then to the teacher link and sign up at the bottom of the page. You will be glad you did!

I am also a fan of Project Learning Tree educational materials. Their monthly e-newsletter, *The Branch*, contains information about funding sources, lesson plans including STEM themes, and recommended reading. Of course, their focus area is trees, but we all know trees are very important to our existence. Their recommended reading this month is a book entitled Chocolate. Who doesn't want to read this book! To subscribe to The Branch, go to their teacher page through this link: <https://www.plt.org/resources/for-teachers/>.

This has nothing to do with solid waste and recycling, but... since it is a timely resource on a subject on everyone's mind, Creative Teaching Press has made available a free downloadable copy of photos of all the Presidents of the United States. I am sharing it with you. It is at <http://www.creativeteaching.com/product/presidents-of-the-united-states-poster-chart>. Go to the bottom of the page for the free 8 ½" x 11" download. Better hurry though. This is a limited time free download.

Get Yourself Recognized...

...and get some cash for your education and your classroom! Apply for the [Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators](http://go.usa.gov/xkgTS) (<http://go.usa.gov/xkgTS>), which recognizes outstanding K-12 teachers who employ innovative approaches to environmental education and use the environment as a context for learning.

Award winners receive up to \$2,500 to continue their professional development in environmental education. Additionally, the teacher's local education agency will receive up to \$2,500 to fund environmental educational activities and programs. [Learn about the creative work of our previous award winners](http://go.usa.gov/xkqbT) (<http://go.usa.gov/xkqbT>).

Applications are due March 1, 2017. (Source: EPA Office of Environmental Education)

Fund Raiser

Recycling Rules is an Office Depot program to promote recycling of ink and toner cartridges in schools. K through 12 schools that participate will receive a gift card from Office Depot for the value amount of the recycled cartridges. Any school can participate for free, and boxes are provided. Learn more at <http://www.myschoolrecycles.com/home.aspx> (Note: this is just one of a number of similar programs for ink cartridge recycling. We do not recommend one program over another.)

*Treat the earth well. It was not given to you by your parents.
It is loaned to you by your children.
Ancient Indian Proverb*

Sources for the above information include: America Recycles Day, Creative Teaching Press, eCycle Group, Nickelodeon (Nick Jr.), Project Learning Tree, Scholastic, USEPA Office of Environmental Education, Washington County Environmental Affairs and Recycling, and White River Regional Solid Waste Management District.

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