



Hollow Mountain & Bub's Bookstore Monarch Waystation Design Challenge

Official Rules and Participation Guidelines

No Purchase Necessary

No purchase, payment or donation is necessary to enter or win the Hollow Mountain & Bub's Bookstore Monarch Waystation Design Challenge.

Sponsors & Partners

The Design Challenge is sponsored and administered by Hollow Mountain, a 501c3 nonprofit registered in Carson City.

Bub's Bookstore is the project host site. TruGreen is a project donor. The Eagle Valley Middle School Green Biz Kidz is a project partner. Other partners may include local officials, community partners and professional mentors.

Purpose of the Design Challenge

Hollow Mountain is creating a youth-designed Monarch Butterfly Waystation and Community Garden at Bub's Bookstore in Carson City.

Youth artists are invited to submit a design concept for the artistic portion of the Monarch Waystation. The winning design will help shape a real outdoor garden installation for monarch butterflies, bees, pollinators, toads and other small wildlife.

The design should include three connected elements:

- A creative "station" feature
- A shallow pollinator water or puddling feature
- A small toad-friendly shelter or habitat area

Eligibility

The Design Challenge is open to youth artists under age 21 as of the submission deadline with a connection to Carson City.

Artists under age 18 must have permission from a parent or legal guardian to enter.

No professional art experience is required.

Individual and team submissions are allowed. If a team submission is selected, the award and recognition will be shared by the team unless otherwise agreed before selection.

Hollow Mountain may request parent or guardian confirmation before announcing or awarding any minor participant.

Entry Period

The Design Challenge opens on: May 27, 2026

Submissions are due by: 11:59 p.m. June 27, 2026

Winners announced by: July 7, 2026

Installation is planned for mid July 2026, subject to weather, scheduling, site conditions and partner availability.

Late, incomplete or unreadable submissions may not be considered.

How to Enter

Artists must submit:

Name and age

Parent or guardian name and contact information, if under 18

Contact information for the artist or parent/guardian

A visual design concept, such as a drawing, painting, digital design, collage, model photo or other visual submission

A short written description of the design

A list of imagined materials

A short explanation of how the design supports butterflies, bees, toads and the garden

A title for the design

Submissions should be sent to: info@hollowmountainworkshops.org with the word "Station" in the subject line, or physical submissions can be dropped off at the site of the new station in the Design Challenge Submissions Box in front of Bub's Bookstore at 110 S. Curry Street in Carson City.

Design Theme

The design should imagine the Monarch Waystation as a real "station" for tiny critters instead of people.

Examples could include a rustic gnome village train station, a post-apocalyptic subway station, a weather station for ants, a midcentury gas station, or another original interpretation.

Artists are encouraged to be playful, thoughtful and imaginative while remembering that the final design must work in a real outdoor garden.

Design Requirements

Each submission should include:

A creative station feature

A shallow pollinator water or puddling feature

A small toad shelter or habitat area

Wildlife-safe, outdoor-appropriate materials

A design that can work with living plants

A design that can be built, maintained, repaired and/or adapted over time

Natural and organic materials are encouraged, including untreated wood, bark, pinecones, stones, logs, terracotta, clay, branches and other materials that can safely weather over time.

Safety and Material Restrictions

Designs must be safe for children, visitors, pollinators and wildlife.

Designs may not include:

Toxic paints or sealants

Glitter

Loose plastic pieces

Sharp edges

Exposed nails or screws

Chemically treated wood

Insecticides or herbicides

Loose glass, loose marbles or breakable materials unless specifically approved

Materials that could trap, poison, injure or entangle wildlife

Materials that would block plant growth or make the garden difficult to maintain

Anything unsafe for a public-facing garden space

The pollinator water feature must be shallow and safe, with landing surfaces such as stones, sand, mud or other approved materials.

The toad habitat must provide shelter without creating a hazard for visitors or wildlife.

Original Work

Entries must be the original work of the youth artist or youth artist team. Adults may assist in translating their artist's concept (such as in the case of helping to write descriptions and intentions of young artists) but all substantive concepts in the entry must be a product of the youth artist's original ideas and work.

Submissions may not copy another artist's work, published artwork, logos, characters, photographs, online images or copyrighted material.

Artists may be inspired by stations, gardens, insects, books, fairies, gnomes, trains, libraries and other themes, but the submitted design must be original.

No AI-generated artwork may be submitted as the artist's design. If Generative-AI is suspected, artists will be asked to prove their content was not assisted through GenAI technology. If they are unable to disprove it (such as through original concept designs, hand drawn elements, etc.) they may be disqualified from the contest.

Content Restrictions

Entries may not contain:

Offensive, hateful, violent or discriminatory content

Sexual content or nudity

- Political campaign messages
- Promotion of alcohol, tobacco, drugs, firearms or weapons
- Defamatory or disparaging statements about people, organizations or businesses
- Personal information such as home addresses, phone numbers or license plates
- Copyrighted characters, brands or logos without permission

Hollow Mountain may disqualify any submission that does not fit the purpose, safety needs or community nature of the project.

Judging Criteria

Submissions will be reviewed by Hollow Mountain and/or selected project representatives.

Designs will be considered based on:

- Creativity and originality
- Connection to the “station” theme
- Safety for wildlife and visitors
- Use of natural, nontoxic or garden-friendly materials
- How well the station feature, water feature and toad habitat work together
- How well the design can fit into a living pollinator garden
- Feasibility for construction, maintenance and adaptation
- Overall community impact

The winning design does not need to be the most polished or professional drawing. The strongest submission will be imaginative, thoughtful, safe and possible to turn into a real garden feature.

Hollow Mountain’s decisions are final.

Award and Recognition

The selected youth artist will receive a \$250 award.

The design challenge scholarship was made possible thanks to TruGreen's generous donation supporting Hollow Mountain and Carson City youth.

The selected artist will also receive:

- Public recognition as the designing artist
- A small plaque or marker at the garden
- Participation in the official ribbon cutting
- The opportunity, if desired and feasible, to help work through how the design is adapted for the final garden
- A possible one-on-one mentorship session with a professional working artist, as scheduling and availability allows.

If the winning artist is under 18, the award may be issued to the artist’s parent or legal guardian on the artist’s behalf.

Any taxes or reporting obligations related to the award are the responsibility of the winner or the winner’s parent/legal guardian.

Runners-Up

Runners-up may have small elements of their designs incorporated into the final installation when feasible.

For example, a young artist's ladybug, butterfly, flower, sign, tile pattern or tiny creature drawing could become a painted rock, small sign, tile detail or other safe garden element.

Runners-up may also receive a framed photo or enlarged copy of their submitted design along with additional prizes.

Use and Adaptation of Submitted Designs

Artists retain ownership of their original submitted artwork.

By entering, the artist and, if the artist is under 18, the artist's parent or legal guardian give Hollow Mountain permission to use, display, photograph, publish, share, adapt and modify the submitted design for purposes related to the Monarch Waystation project, the Design Challenge, project promotion, press materials, social media, signage, the ribbon cutting and the final garden installation.

The winning design may be adapted by Hollow Mountain, Bub's Bookstore and project partners for safety, budget, durability, accessibility, maintenance, wildlife protection, plant health and site conditions.

The final installed garden may not match the submitted design exactly.

Collaboration After Selection

The winning artist will be treated as the project's designing artist and will have the opportunity to help work through how the design becomes part of the real garden.

After selection, the artist has the opportunity and is encouraged to work with Hollow Mountain and project partners, including EVMS Green Biz Kidz if available, to combine the station design with the plant design, if desired and feasible. Collaboration is encouraged but not required.

This collaboration may include discussion of placement, materials, scale, plant spacing, water feature safety, toad habitat design and how the final installation will be built.

Participation in planning, installation and ribbon cutting activities may depend on scheduling, parent or guardian permission, weather and site conditions.

Publicity and Media Permission

By entering, artists and parents/guardians understand that Hollow Mountain may use the artist's name, age, submitted artwork, project photos, statements and likeness in project-related materials, unless prohibited by law or unless a separate written privacy arrangement is made.

This may include press releases, social media posts, website materials, event announcements, ribbon cutting materials, garden signage and sponsor recognition.

Winner Notification

The selected artist will be notified using the contact information provided at entry.

If Hollow Mountain cannot reach the selected artist or parent/guardian within five days, or if required permission forms

are not completed, Hollow Mountain may select an alternate winner.

The winner may be asked to complete a short acceptance form, parent/guardian permission form, media release and/or payment information before the award is issued.

Ribbon Cutting and Station Opening

After installation, Hollow Mountain plans to hold an official ribbon cutting at Bub's Bookstore to open the Monarch Waystation and Community Garden.

The ribbon cutting will be themed as though the Waystation is a real station for tiny critters instead of people.

The winning artist, participating youth, families, Bub's Bookstore, TruGreen representatives if available, city leaders, open space officials, transportation officials and community members may be invited.

Project Changes or Cancellation

Hollow Mountain reserves the right to modify, suspend, extend or cancel the Design Challenge or the garden installation if needed because of weather, safety concerns, funding, site conditions, partner availability, insufficient eligible entries or circumstances outside Hollow Mountain's control.

Hollow Mountain may also adjust deadlines, installation dates, judging process, recognition plans or project details if needed.

General Conditions

By entering, participants agree to follow these Official Rules.

Hollow Mountain may disqualify entries that are incomplete, unsafe, copied, AI-generated, inappropriate, submitted after the deadline or inconsistent with the project's purpose.

Hollow Mountain is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected, incomplete, unreadable or inaccessible entries.

Participation in the Design Challenge does not guarantee that a submission will be selected, displayed, adapted or installed.

Contact

Questions may be directed to:

Hollow Mountain
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hollowmountainworkshops.org