

Dear Warren County Schools,

The Ackworth Garden Club and Indianola Parks and Recreation is excited to sponsor the Warren County Fair Youth Container Gardening Contest at the Warren County Fair again in 2019.

All Warren County youth grades K-12 are eligible to enter the contest. Contestants will compete in three categories K-4 (Sprouts), 5-8 (Growers), and 9-12 (Green Thumbs). Prizes of \$35, \$25, and \$15 will be mailed to the top three contestants in each category.

Our hope is that the contest will be fun for kids and encourage young people to grow other plants and vegetables, develop gardening skills, and become interested in environmental issues and community beautification projects.

Each of the contestants will be responsible for their own container. The plants they select should not exceed \$20.00 per container. They can grow their own plants from seed, purchase plants from local nurseries or even cultivate from their own existing plants.

A new registration process this year: Please register online no later than Friday, July 19 at: <https://ackworthgardenclub.blogspot.com>. Select the Special Events tab, then Youth Container Contest Event for details and registration link. For questions or more information, please contact Sharon Weeks @ ackworthgardenclub@gmail.com

Check in is Tuesday, July 23 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Bring your planted container along with a 3X5 card listing your name and the plants used in the container to the Horticulture Building at the Warren County Fairgrounds. Judging takes place on Wednesday July 24 from 10:00 a.m.-Noon. Winners will be announced at 1:00 p.m. Pictures will be taken of all exhibitors with their containers, as well as the winners. If this is a problem, please mention it when checking in.

Judges will base their scores on the following criteria, using a scoring system of 1-5 points for each of the 5 areas:

- Creativity & Overall Design
- Plant Care & Maintenance
- Use of Variety of Plants
- Container Originality & Quality
- Compatibility of Plants to each other

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The Ackworth Garden Club will be hosting a **FREE gardening class on Monday, May 6 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.** at the Warren County Extension Office in Indianola 909 East 2nd Avenue, Suite E (Hwy 92) to demonstrate container gardening. The class is not required in order to participate in the youth container contest. **Please register for the class online no later than Wednesday, May 1 at: <https://ackworthgardenclub.blogspot.com>.** Select the Special Events Tab, then Youth Container Gardening Class for details and registration link. For questions or more information, please contact Sharon Weeks @ ackworthgardenclub@gmail.com.

Thank you for your participation.

Heidi Folkestad, President
Ackworth Garden Club