

2025 Downtown Strawman Competition

POPLAR BLUFF PARKS AND RECREATION, POPLAR BLUFF MUNICIPAL LIBRARY,

DOWNTOWN PB & POPLAR BLUFF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL DOWNTOWN STRAWMAN COMPETITION

- WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

Brush off the cobwebs and use your creativity and imagination to create a Strawman (scarecrow) to decorate Downtown Poplar Bluff for the fall season. Your entry can be a traditional strawman, or you can let your imagination run wild to create a whimsical, funny, artistic creation - **but nothing too gory, please!**

Registration:

Reserve your spot for \$20. All entry forms must be received by 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 17, 2025.

Location:

Strawmen will be placed on a tree or light post on the two blocks encompassing Main, Cedar, Broadway, and Vine streets. Each entrant will choose a location at the time of registration.

Judging Date:

The Strawman Contest will be judged on Wednesday, September 24, 2025. Winners will be contacted after judging is complete.

Prizes:

Prizes will be awarded for the People's Choice Award, Mayor's Award, Most Creative, Scariest, Funniest, and Downtown's Best in Show. Poplar Bluff Municipal Library will host the People's Choice Award. Vote on their Facebook page from September 25 to October 9. **Entries will be judged on originality, creativity, detail, color, appearance and imagination. Entries MUST be G Rated, suitable for everyone.

Entry Rules and Conditions:

- This competition is open to Poplar Bluff residents only. An entry form must be submitted at by Wednesday, September 17, at 12:00 P.M. All strawmen must be named.
- The Strawman Contest is open to scout troops, schools church groups, organizations, businesses, families, and individuals from Poplar Bluff.
- Only one entry per group or individual. A group is considered two or more people working together.

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Entry Rules and Conditions:

- No advertising, political or religious statements, or offensive or distasteful entries will be permitted. Please remember the design of the strawman will be viewed by children as well as adults and must be in good taste.
- Entries shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height or five (5) feet in width. It may be free standing, staked, or attached to the tree/light post. No props will be provided.
- The Strawman must be built to withstand weather such as wind and rain.
- Participants are responsible for setting up and taking down their own displays.
- They may ONLY be attached with rope, twine, or tie wraps.
- No perishable goods may be used in the construction of the strawman unless replaced on a regular basis while on display.
- All Strawmen must be named. A sign will be furnished by Poplar Bluff Parks and Recreation for each entry and will be posted at each assigned location on Monday, September 22, 2025.
- One (1) bale of straw and two (2) cornstalks will be provided by Poplar Bluff Parks and Recreation. Bales and cornstalks will be dropped off on morning of September 21, 2025, at each location.
- Poplar Bluff Parks and Recreation reserves the right to remove any strawman that does not meet the previous standards. Poplar Bluff Parks and Recreation will not be responsible for loss or damage that might occur to the strawmen on display. Poplar Bluff Parks and Recreation reserves the right to photograph the entries for publicity/promotional purposes. All photos become the property of Poplar Bluff Parks and Recreation.

Installation and Removal of Scarecrow:

Set-up: Official entrants are responsible for the installation of their strawman by Sunday, September 21, 2025, by 6:00 P.M. *Bales and cornstalks will be delivered on site the morning of September 21. Strawmen will remain on display until Friday, October 31, 2025.

Take-down: All strawmen must be removed by Sunday, November 2, 2025. Any entries left after that day will be removed beginning Monday, November 3, 2025, and will become the property of Poplar Bluff Parks and Recreation.



Downtown Strauman Competition

Over the centuries, strawmen (scarecrows) have been constructed using toys, tools, plastic bags, containers, clothes and uniforms, trees and leaves and broken bits of just about anything to protect crops or just decorate for fall. You can use your imagination to create a beautiful (or scary!) work of art. There is no right or wrong way to build a scarecrow. Just remember to have fun while you are doing it! After that, your imagination is your limit.

Planning is key... get your idea then build from there. You will need a sturdy frame to construct the body, stuffing for the body and clothes or other materials for the covering. You can also use chicken wire to create a more “sophisticated” shape or design. Don’t forget about props...anything you can place around your creation enhances its appearance.

Remember the elements! Your strawman will be out in the elements for a few weeks so you need to plan accordingly. (Think about how to attach pieces at angles to suggest arm, leg and elbow movement, but don’t let those angles become an invitation to the wind!) Newspaper can be great stuffing...but it may not survive a Poplar Bluff fall! Consider other options...straw, plastic bags, old clothing, etc.

The following is an example of a basic scarecrow frame. 3 stakes. 1 about 6 feet long, 1 about 3 feet long, and 1 about 1 foot long, twine, nails, or screws.

