

Coastal Trash Couture Fashion Show

Cajun Coast Tourism is sponsoring the Inaugural Coastal Trash Couture Fashion Show. Supporters include Keep Louisiana Beautiful, Atchafalaya National Heritage Area, BTNEP, and Louisiana Office of Tourism, St. Mary Parish School Board and St. Mary Parish Library.

What? Original fashion designs made from items that have or would otherwise be discarded or recycled and/or has the potential to harm the swamps and bayous of Louisiana in the form of litter.

Cost? There is no cost to enter.

When? Sunday, August 16, 2026, 2 pm at the Bayou Vista Community Center. Check-in begins at 11 am. Winners will be announced at the completion of the show.

Who? Students will be divided into two age groups: 5th to 8th grade and 9th to 12th grade. Entries may be individual or group – but there will only be one prize. No more than three people in a group, excluding the model. Groups may submit up to three entries. *Parental consent will be needed for all participants.*

Prizes? 1st Place: \$200.00 gift card, 2nd Place: \$100.00 gift card, 3rd Place, \$50.00 gift card for grades 5th to 8th and grades 9th to 12th. A \$200.00 gift card for Best of Show from both age groups.

Rules? Entries must use a minimum of 75% recycled or reused materials that would otherwise be thrown away or recycled. These fashions can include cardboard, steel/tin, recycled fabric or clothing, aluminum, plastics, paper cartons, chipboard, newspaper, mixed papers (magazines, junk mail, catalogs, paper bags and glass. Duct tape is not a recycled material but may be used sparingly. Recycled clothing and fabric may be used but must be altered and not worn in its original state.

Each entry must provide its own model. The model does not have to be part of the design team.

Footwear, jewelry, purses, and other accessories may be used to enhance the overall costume. Model must be able to walk safely on the walkway whether they are recycled or street shoes.

Registration: [Click here to fill out the Google form](#) or fill out this form, which must be completed and turned in by August 7, 2026. All participants must sign the application/release.

The “environmental factoid” that connects with your outfit to the environment will be read during the fashion show (i.e. Angie’s dress is made of 138 sheets of paper. In the US, we throw away 4.5 million tons of paper each year.)

Judging? Entries will be judged by a panel of judges based on the following criteria: use of recyclable/reusable materials, creativity, originality, craftsmanship and environmental factoid. All decisions are final and not subject to change.

General Conditions: By participating, applicants and artists agree that they meet the eligibility requirements. By applying and/or participating, applicants and artists agree to 1.) abide by official rules and

decisions of producers, hosts and judges. 2.) to hold harmless producers, host, sponsors, employees, volunteers, and others involved in planning or production of event from any claims, actions, demands, losses, damages, or liabilities arising out of their participation in the contest and any related activities.

Let your creativity rule! But keep in mind, transparent or revealing designs are prohibited as is anything with violence or that would be deemed offensive.

Designs will be displayed at the Cajun Coast Welcome Center following the event.

IDEAS TO HELP GET YOU STARTED

Suggested materials for your “Coastal Trash Couture” designs include (but are not limited to):

Consider how these items can be cut, folded, molded, knotted, shredded, stitched, woven or reconstructed to make an outfit or specific sections within the design.

- Paper/plastic bags
- Newspapers/magazines/phone books/books/catalogs
- Food packages/wrappers/labels
- Tin/aluminum foil
- Soda tabs
- Incomplete decks of cards
- Metal/plastic bottle caps
- Plastic cups
- Broken umbrellas
- Lightweight cardboard
- Plastic utensils
- Corks
- Wrinkled tissue paper
- Empty tape rolls/spools of thread
- Old lampshades
- Foam peanuts/packing material
- Stained or torn fabric
- Scraps of textiles or tiles,
- Beverage bottle caps or six-pack rings
- Burlap/Crawfish sack
- Anything found from the garbage or recycling bin
- CD's/DVDS
- Cereal Boxes

Ideas for Finding Materials:

These are some starter ideas, but the possibilities are endless!

- Ask friends/neighbors to collect materials such as plastic grocery bags for you
- Shrink wrap – any grocery or department store
- Any manufacturing industry, business or corporation
- Canvas scraps – canvas bag industry
- Burlap bags – coffee roasters
- Silver plastic coffee bags – Coffee Shops
- Recycled materials – your local recycling center
- Litter pickup!

Means to Attach Materials

- Try to use environmentally-friendly glues, dyes, paints, resins, etc. and be mindful of the weight of materials being used in the finished product.
- Hot glue gun or crazy glue
- Safety pins or staples
- Packing or duct tape
- Paper clips or rubber bands
- Machine or hand sewing
- Weaving, braiding, lacing, crocheting or knitting materials
- Natural adhesives – rice, flour with water mixture or milk/vinegar/baking soda mixture

Enter

The deadline to enter is Friday, August 7, 2026. You will receive a follow up letter after the application is complete with more details.

Questions? Email info@cajuncoast.com or call 985.380.8224.

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Entry Information Form This form must be turned in by Friday, August 7, 2026.

Designer Name: _____

Information about you or your group: _____

Model Name: _____

Title of the Outfit/Fashion Item: _____

Description: _____

A description of the outfit to be read by the emcee during the fashion show. Be sure to include all recyclable materials used.

Sample Fashion Show Description: This original ensemble is made of plastic bags and 2-liter bottles. The blouse is made with single-use plastic bags and the skirt with 20 oz plastic bottles. The average American uses 500 plastic shopping bags per year and the lifespan of one plastic bag is a mere 12 minutes. The average American also purchases about 50 billion water bottles per year, averaging about 13 bottles per month for every person in the US! That means by using a reusable water bottle you could save an average of 156 plastic bottles annually. The entire ensemble is being held together by masking tape and old twine.

Release

I hereby grant St. Mary Parish Tourist Commission dba Cajun Coast Tourism, its members and sponsors, partners and supporters the absolute right and permission to copyright, publish and display all images, photographs, slides and video, in which the entry below appears in whole or in part at the 2026 Coastal Couture Trash Fashion Show. I hereby waive any right that I may have to inspect and/or approve the finished product or the editorial layout that may be used in connection with or use to which it may be applied. The St. Mary Parish Tourist Commission is not obligated to use the images or to use any of the rights granted, or to prepare, produce, exhibit or distribute the images. and liability by virtue of blurring, distortion, alteration, optical illusion, or use in composite form, or in any processing or preparation tending toward completion of the finished product or publication (including electronic format, online use, and multimedia products), reproduction or display purposes.

I hereby release, discharge and agree to hold harmless producers, host, sponsors, employees, volunteers, and others involved in planning or production of event from any claims, actions, demands, losses, damages, or liabilities arising out of their participation in the contest and any related activities prior to and during the event.

AGREED TO AND ACCEPTED

PLEASE PRINT and bring completed form with all signatures to the Cajun Coast Visitor's Center by August 7.

Designer Name: _____ Designer Signature: _____

Designer Date of Birth: _____ Email address: _____

Designer Address: _____ Designer Phone Number: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Guardian Name: _____ Guardian Signature: _____

Team Member: _____ Signature: _____

Guardian Name: _____ Guardian Signature: _____

Team Member: _____ Signature: _____

Guardian Name: _____ Guardian Signature: _____

Model Name: _____ Model Signature: _____

Model Address: _____ Model Phone Number: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Email Address: _____