

KEEP THIS PAGE!



2024

Backyard Bugs Contest

The Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District is pleased to announce the return of the Backyard Bugs Contest! Participants observe, draw, and write about bugs they find. Entries will be displayed and prizes will be awarded at the District's Open House on May 4, 2024.



Rules

- Be careful at all times! Go bug hunting with a responsible adult. You don't need to touch, capture or kill any bugs. Stay away from wasps, ticks, spiders and other dangerous creatures that may sting or bite. Always use common sense to stay safe!
- Follow the Directions printed on the attached entry form and complete both sides.
- Entries must be received by 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 4, 2024. In order to be eligible to win 1st, 2nd or 3rd place prizes, you must attend the Open House *and* check in at the contest booth *before* 12:30 p.m. When you check in, you will be given a sticker to put on your drawing so the judges know that your entry is eligible to be judged.

Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District's OPEN HOUSE

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, May 4, 2024

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Check in at contest booth by 12:30 p.m.

Awards ceremony begins at 1:30 p.m.

595 Helman Lane in Cotati

Questions? email caseyremsmosquito.org



Of course there will be **PRIZES!**

Everyone who entered the Backyard Bugs Contest and attends the Open House will receive a prize just for participating!

1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Prizes will also be awarded in each of four age divisions:

- TK/Kindergarten
- 1st Grade
- 2nd - 3rd Grade
- 4th - 6th Grade

Judges will be instructed to look for the greatest amount of student effort (coloring, labeling, extra research, etc.). The prizes we have selected should appeal to all curious kids with a love for nature --things like digital microscopes and science kits.

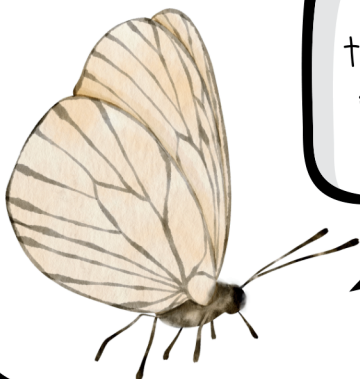
Manager's Award

Our District Manager will select an entry that shows that the participant did a superior job researching their bug.

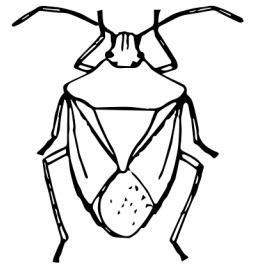
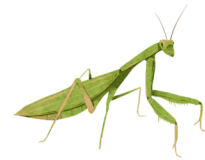
Ways to Submit Your Entry

1. If your class had a vector presentation, a District staff member will likely be returning to your class a few days later and can pick up your entry.
2. Scan and email a **high-quality PDF** to casey@msmosquito.org (no other file types accepted!)
3. Turn in your entry in person at our Open House on May 4 before 12:30 p.m.
4. Mail your entry to District Headquarters:

Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District
Attention: Education Dept.
595 Helman Lane, Cotati, CA. 94931



Remember, the purpose of this contest is to learn about insects, observe nature, and have fun!



**TURN THIS
PAGE IN!**

2024 Backyard Bugs Contest Entry Form



Parents:

Please carefully read, fill out, and sign the form below. *Your personal information will not be shared in any way--it is only used to remind you to attend the Open House where your child will receive a small participation prize and be eligible to win additional prizes awarded by the judges.*

Child's name (first and last): _____

Circle age group: TK/Kindergarten 1st grade 2nd-3rd grade 4th-6th grade

I hereby authorize my child to participate in the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito & Vector Control District (MSMVCD) Backyard Bugs Contest. My signature is acknowledgement that I have read, understand and agree to the rules and conditions of the contest and understand that the safety of my child is my responsibility and MSMVCD is not responsible for any property damage or any harm or injury that may occur to any person while participating in the contest or using/playing with any prize that is awarded.

Printed name of parent/guardian: _____

Signature of parent/guardian: _____

How do you prefer to be reminded of the Open House? Email Text Call

Your email address and/or phone number: _____

What school does your child attend?: _____

What is your child's teacher's last name (important!): _____

Directions (for kids)

- Find a bug. Watch it closely for several minutes and draw a detailed, labeled picture of it on the back of this page. Make sure to include details that show where you found it (on a stick, under a rock, etc.).
- Identify it and find out as much as you can about the creature (use books).
- Find out what it eats, its habitat, and whether or not it is helpful to people.
- Write your observations and what you found out about the bug on the lines below your drawing on the back of this page.
- Your work will be saved forever in the 2024 Backyard Bugs Book!

Draw, color, and label your bug in the space above.

Write the name of the bug here: _____

Observations and information about this bug: _____

Entry number (office use only): _____