

Valuable Cash Prizes Offered in Birdhouse Contest

Celebrating Bombay Hook



The Smyrna Downtown Renaissance Association is celebrating Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge as a hometown special place with its 2018 Placemaking Project, a birdhouse decorating contest, and you are invited to join the fun! Decorate a bluebird house provided by the Association and compete for valuable cash prizes.

The 16,251 acre Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge is located on the Delaware Bay in Kent County near Smyrna, Delaware. Established in 1937 as a wildlife refuge, it provides feeding, resting, and breeding grounds for migratory birds along the Atlantic Flyway. The Refuge is known internationally and attracts visitors from around the world. Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge was the fourth national site commemorated in 2015 in the United States Mint series of America the Beautiful Quarters. *Conde Nast Traveler Magazine* selected Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge as Delaware's entry in its *The Most Beautiful Place in Every U.S. State* series in its July 21, 2017 magazine.

The birdhouse decorating contest has four classes - Youth, Adult, Invitational and Freestyle. Youth Class entries are for children from 5 -14 years of age, while Adult Class entries are from 15 and older. Invitational Class entries are from invited artists in the community who are being asked to design an entry that will be auctioned at a reception following the planting at the April 18, 2018 Arbor Day ceremony. Proceeds will benefit the *1000 Trees for Smyrna* Initiative. Entries in these three classes will decorate a free bluebird house provided by the Association and will compete for a \$75.00 cash prize for the best entry in each class. Other participants will receive a certificate of appreciation. Entries in the Youth and Adult classes may keep their entries at the conclusion of the contest. Judging will be by a panel of judges, except for the Invitational Class which will be decided by popular vote at *I ♥ Smyrna School District Day* on Saturday, February 24, 2018. Enter early as the availability of bluebird houses is limited.

Freestyle is the final class, and entries will be a birdhouse built from scratch by the contestant without using the kit provided for other classes. These could include

replicas of historic Smyrna buildings or any whimsical theme selected by the entrant. The cash prize for this class is \$150.00 to the first place winner.

Entrants in the Youth and Adult classes can register for the contest and pick up their free wooden birdhouse at Smyrna Cards and Gifts ([\(302-566-8553\)](tel:302-566-8553)), [16 South Main Street, Smyrna, DE](#) from 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Saturday beginning January 15, 2018.

The completed decorated birdhouses in all classes will be accepted from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 23, 2018 at [36 South Main Street, Smyrna](#) or other times by appointment.

The entries will be on display in the windows of Ward Hall, [5 East Commerce Street](#) next to Smyrna Sporting Goods during the month of March. The community is invited to view and enjoy the exhibit. The winning entries in the Youth and Adult Classes will be displayed in the library parking lot mounted on posts during April 2018.

Join the fun and help us celebrate Smyrna's own Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge. For more information visit the Smyrna Downtown Renaissance Association website at www.mydowntownsmryn.org or phone [\(302\) 653-6449](tel:302-653-6449).