

Plantasia in BLOOM 2024

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PARTICIPANT INFORMATION PACK



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Welcome to Plantasia in Bloom 2024, proudly supported by Swansea University - an exciting competition where creativity meets sustainability!

Plantasia in Bloom 2024 is a dynamic event hosted by Plantasia Tropical Zoo, promoting recycling awareness, environmental sustainability, and community engagement. The event, occurring during the May school holidays (27th May - 2nd June 2024), revolves around a competition where schools and community groups create floral displays using materials that can be recycled.

This information pack is designed to guide you through the competition, ensuring an enriching experience for everyone involved.

SECTION 1: THE IMPORTANCE OF RECYCLING

Understanding the impact of recycling is crucial. In this section, we explore why recycling matters and how it contributes to combating climate change. Let's join hands to make a positive environmental impact!

1.1 Why Recycle?

Recycling is more than just a daily habit; it's a powerful action with far-reaching benefits. By recycling, we divert waste from landfills, reduce pollution, and conserve valuable resources. Every recycled item contributes to a cleaner, healthier environment for current and future generations.

1.2 Impact on Climate Change

Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, and recycling plays a vital role in mitigating its effects. The production of new materials often involves energy-intensive processes that release greenhouse gases. Recycling helps lower these emissions by reusing existing materials, conserving energy, and reducing the demand for raw resources.

1.3 Closing the Loop

Recycling is a part of a circular economy, where materials are continuously reused, reducing the need for extraction and production. This approach minimises waste, lowers carbon footprints, and fosters a sustainable way of living. Plantasia in Bloom 2024 encourages you to become champions of this circular economy by creating stunning artwork blooms from recycled materials, which can then be broken down and recycled again at the end of the exhibition.

1.4 Wales: A Recycling Pioneer

Wales is one of the leading nations for recycling, thanks to initiatives by organisations like WRAP Cymru. While we have made significant progress, there is still more that individuals and businesses can do to contribute to Wales' recycling success story. By participating in Plantasia in Bloom 2024, you are actively joining the movement towards a greener, more sustainable Wales.

1.5 Waste and Wildlife

Recycling isn't just about improving our immediate surroundings; it's about protecting our wildlife and ecosystems. The link between waste and animals is profound; plastics in our seas, for example, pose a serious threat to marine life. By recycling, we reduce the amount of waste that finds its way into the natural habitats of animals, ensuring a safer and healthier environment for all.

1.6 Our Collective Impact

Every small action adds up to create a significant impact. Plantasia in Bloom 2024 is an opportunity for us to come together, celebrate creativity, and collectively contribute to a healthier planet. Your recycled blooms are not just symbols of artistry but also ambassadors of change, telling a powerful story of our shared commitment to a sustainable future.

As you embark on this creative journey, remember that every recycled material in your bloom carries a message of environmental consciousness. Let's make Plantasia in Bloom 2024 a vibrant testament to the beauty and importance of recycling.

1.7 Further resources on Recycling

Looking to expand your knowledge on recycling beyond Plantasia in Bloom 2024? Explore additional resources available online to deepen your understanding and enhance your eco-conscious efforts. One valuable resource is The Action Pack, available at schools.recyclenow.com. Although the competition on the website may be closed, you can access a wealth of free educational materials anytime. Dive into informative guides, engaging activities, and insightful articles to discover practical tips and strategies for embracing recycling in your daily life. Let these resources empower you to become a sustainability champion, making a positive impact on our planet one recyclable item at a time.



SECTION 2: COMPETITION GUIDELINES

Plantasia in Bloom 2024 is an inclusive and exciting competition open to schools and community groups eager to showcase their creativity and commitment to sustainability. Here are the key eligibility criteria to ensure a fair and engaging experience for all participants:

2.1 Eligibility:

By opening the competition to a diverse range of participants, we aim to foster a sense of community and shared responsibility for our environment. Plantasia in Bloom 2024 is not just a competition; it's an opportunity for collaboration and creativity to flourish!

- Open to all schools and community groups with children aged 3 - 16 years.
- Maximum of 6 entries per class/group.
- Interested schools and community groups must register their participation by 30th April 2024

2.2 Bloom Specifications:

Plantasia in Bloom 2024 invites participants to transform recycled materials into vibrant recycled blooms that captivate the imagination. To ensure a fair and visually stunning competition, please adhere to the following specifications when crafting your entries:

- Minimum size: 30cm x 30cm.
- Maximum size: 1 metre x 1 metre.
- Blooms must be made from materials that can be recycled.
- This includes but is not limited to plastics, fabrics, paper, cardboard, and other repurposed items.
- The goal is to showcase the imaginative use of materials that can be recycled in your creation.
- Unleash your creativity! Your bloom should be an original creation that reflects your unique perspective on recycling and environmental sustainability.

2.3 Display Requirements:

- Your bloom must be equipped with a secure and robust method of attachment. This is essential to guarantee the stability of your creation throughout the exhibition period.
- Consider the dynamic nature of the zoo environment; your bloom should withstand any potential movement or handling.
- Ensure that your creation is accessible for transportation to and display within Plantasia Tropical Zoo.
- Fragile components should be secured to prevent damage during handling and exhibition.
- Plantasia Tropical Zoo is a hot and humid environment. Please take this into account when selecting materials to ensure the longevity of your bloom throughout the event
- Your entry should be designed for easy visibility, allowing visitors to appreciate the intricate details and creativity in your creation.
- Consider the height and placement of elements to ensure accessibility for viewers of all ages.
- Participants are encouraged to include interactive elements in their blooms, such as QR codes or informational signs, to engage visitors and share insights into the recycling process.
- Each entry must be clearly labelled with the name of your school or community group, contact details, and the title of your bloom.
- Legible labelling ensures proper identification and recognition for your creative efforts.
- Feel free to experiment with shapes, colours, and textures to make your entry stand out.

These specifications are designed to inspire innovative thinking while maintaining fairness and consistency among entries. By adhering to these guidelines, you contribute to the success of Plantasia in Bloom 2024 and showcase the incredible potential of recycling.



SECTION 3: EVENT TIMELINE

Get ready to mark your calendars! From submission deadlines to the grand unveiling of eco-friendly blooms, this timeline ensures you stay informed and prepared for the excitement ahead.

Registration of Participation Deadline: April 30, 2024

Bloom Submission Deadline: May 20, 2024 5pm

Bloom Installation Dates (by the Plantasia in Bloom team): May 21 - May 25

Event Dates: May 27 - June 2, 2024

SECTION 4: JUDGING CRITERIA

Our expert panel will assess entries for creativity, utilisation of recycled materials, environmental consciousness, durability, and size. We encourage innovation, thoughtfulness, and eco-awareness in your designs! Their evaluation contributes 50% towards the final score.

Additionally, visitors attending the event from the 27th May - 2nd June will each have the chance to vote for their preferred bloom. Their input accounts for the remaining 50% of the total score.

SECTION 5: AWARDS

Prepare for the moment of recognition! From honouring the best school or group to celebrating individual brilliance with the Best in Bloom award, this section embodies the spirit of achievement and creativity.

Best School or Group: Recognition for outstanding collective effort. The winner of this category will receive a certificate, their name engraved on the Plantasia in Bloom trophy, a smaller engraved trophy to cherish and display at their own location. Amazon vouchers to the value of £200 has been generously donated by our event sponsor, Swansea University.

Best in Bloom: Celebrating individual excellence. The winner of this category will receive a certificate, their name engraved on the Plantasia in Bloom trophy, and a smaller engraved trophy to cherish and display at their own location. The creators will also receive a family ticket to Plantasia Tropical Zoo.

Highly Commended Certificates: May be awarded at the judges' discretion.

SECTION 6: BLOOM SUBMISSION PROCESS

- Please deliver your creations for the attention of Kathryn Bulson to Plantasia Tropical Zoo, Parc Tawe, Swansea, SA1 2AL by the submission deadline - 5pm on the 20th May 2024.

- Clearly label each entry with your school or group name, contact details, and the title of your bloom.

SECTION 7: CORPORATE OPPORTUNITIES

At Plantasia in Bloom 2024, businesses of all sizes are offered a unique opportunity to shine a spotlight on their commitment to sustainability through dedicated exhibition spaces within Plantasia Tropical Zoo' education room.

This exclusive area allows businesses to showcase their innovative recycling initiatives, eco-friendly products, and corporate responsibility efforts to a diverse audience of participants and visitors.

By engaging with attendees in a dynamic and immersive environment, businesses can demonstrate their dedication to environmental stewardship while fostering meaningful connections with the community.

This exhibition space not only promotes the businesses brand but also aligns them with the values of Plantasia in Bloom, reinforcing their role as champions of recycling and sustainability.

If you're keen on securing a complimentary space to showcase your business throughout our event, we invite you to reach out to us at your earliest convenience. Please contact us at plantasia@parkwood-leisure.co.uk to explore the suitability of this opportunity further. We look forward to discussing how your business can contribute to the vibrant atmosphere of Plantasia in Bloom 2024.

SECTION 8: FURTHER ASSISTANCE

Should you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to contact us at plantasia@parkwood-leisure.co.uk

Plantasia in Bloom 2024 is not just a competition but an opportunity for communities, businesses, and schools to come together for a sustainable cause. Through creative displays and thoughtful partnerships, we aim to inspire positive environmental action.

Let your creativity bloom, and together, let's make Plantasia in Bloom 2024 - proudly supported by Swansea University, an inspiring celebration of recycling, sustainability, and community!

Warmest Regards,
The team at Plantasia Tropical Zoo

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