

Wal-Mart Awards \$35,000 to Oregon Schools for recycling efforts

by Bend_Weekly_News_Sources

Company's Plastic Bag Recycling Program Encourages Local Elementary Students to Help Remove Nearly 44 Tons of Plastic from the Local Waste Stream

Through its Kids Recycling Challenge program, Wal-Mart today announced it is awarding \$35,020 to 130 Oregon schools for students' efforts to become responsible stewards of their environment. The company's Kids Recycling Challenge effort is the largest plastic bag recycling program of its kind ever undertaken.

From last September through March, elementary school students in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming were encouraged to bring plastic retail and grocery bags to their schools for recycling. For each 60-gallon collection bag filled with plastic bags and brought to a local Wal-Mart store, the school was awarded \$5.00 from Wal-Mart.

Schools were grouped into geographic regions, and competed against other elementary schools in their region. The ten schools in each region that brought in the most collection bags received additional cash grants from Wal-Mart: \$3,000 for first place, \$2,000 for second place, \$1,000 for third place, and \$250 each for fourth through tenth places.

Additionally, the top school in each region will be rewarded with an entertaining and educational school-wide assembly performance, courtesy of Wal-Mart.

Oregon was designated as one region, with schools across the state competing against each other.

“As an active leader in the local communities that our stores serve, Wal-Mart is committed to improving the environment, increasing awareness about recycling, and helping our schools get much-needed funding,” said Sharon Hamm, Manager of Wal-Mart Store #2029 in Medford. “It was a thrill to see the principals, teachers, and parent volunteers come into the store with their cartloads of bags, and we were all surprised to see just how quickly they added up. Many schools have asked us if they can continue bringing in bags even though the current program is over. They have become so accustomed to recycling that earning money for the bags has almost become secondary.”

Oregon region results

Collectively, 130 elementary schools in Oregon participated in the program, filling a total of 5,454 collection bags “weighing 87,264 pounds” and earning \$35,020 in the process.

Jacksonville Elementary School in Jacksonville topped all participating Oregon schools by filling 698 60-gallon collection bags (totaling 11,168 pounds). In addition to earning \$5.00 per bag, and the \$3,000 grand prize, the students of Jacksonville Elementary will also be rewarded with an entertaining assembly focusing on the environment, courtesy of Wal-Mart. The assembly will take place today at 8:45 a.m. Prior to the assembly, a representative from Wal-Mart will present a check for \$6,490 to the hard-working students.

students. Participating schools have recycled 1,400 tons of plastic bags and have collected nearly \$1.2 million from Wal-Mart.

The next Kids Recycling Challenge will run from Fall 2007 through Spring 2008 in the same states. Interested schools are invited to visit www.kidsrecyclingchallenge.com to learn more and to enroll.

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