

Re-Fashion holds informational meeting, kicks off design phase

By Elisha Morrison

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Dresses covered in flowers that turn out to be plastic bottles and a suit of armor that is really cardboard are among the unique creations that have been designed by Saline County students from recycled materials for Recycle Saline's Re-Fashion Bash during the show's past four years.

"Re-Fashion Bash is the recycling event of the year where kids can turn used and recycled items into beautiful treasures," said Tiffany Dunn, executive director of Recycle Saline.

Recycle Saline will hold an informational meeting at 6 p.m. Jan. 16 at Pine Haven Elementary School for students who may not be sure how to get started. Students unable to attend the meeting may get information through their schools.

on the event page on Facebook, by email at refashionbash@gmail.com or by calling call 501-776-2533.

Dunn said the design competition will be open to all students in Saline County, including private school and home school students.

All fashion designs will be modeled by students during the Re-Fashion Bash show to be held from 5 to 8 p.m. April 21 at Benton Event Center.

Ticket sales for the evening will go to YEA! Youth Environmental Ambassadors.

The show will be co-produced by Brandon Campbell, of I ME Fashion Brand and Oneofakind talent agency.

The print sponsor for the evening will be Promotional Ideas. Benton Beauty Academy will provide hair designs and makeup for the models.

Dunn is seeking sponsors for

Re-Fashion Bash. Anyone interested may contact Recycle Saline.

Designs will be judged in three age categories: kindergarten through fourth grade, fifth through eighth grade and ninth through 12th grade. The top three designs will be selected from each category. The first-place design will receive \$500, second place \$250 and third place \$100.

Designs can may be submitted by individuals or teams composed of up to four students. Designers can model their own designs or someone else may model them.

To be entered into the show designers must create a complete outfit of either a suit or a dress.

Dunn said the students enjoy the real fashion show experience the show provides.

This year's competition will add a new element to keep it interest-



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Leela Hoerschelmann, of Bryant High School, first place winner for ninth-through 12th-grade at the 2017 Re-Fashion Bash, models her design "Alice in GarbageLand," during last year's show. Students soon will start working on designs for this year's event, which is scheduled from 5 to 8 p.m. April 21 at Benton Event Center.

Bash

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ing. All designs must incorporate paper and a plastic bottle. All designs must be of at least 80 percent used material. No more than 20 percent of the outfit can be of new material.

"It does take time to design," Dunn said. "It is a process. It is not done overnight."

Mentors will go into area schools one week in February and one week in March to provide guidance to designers and help students figure out how to put their designs together.

She recommends starting to collect design materials as soon as possible.

Dunn said Recycle Saline is seeking volunteers will sewing, crafting and design experience to serve as mentors for the program.

All participants must attend a mandatory meeting March 28 to review the program and show where they are on their designs.

All packets and outfits must be turned in no later than April 6.

Dunn suggests students visit www.recyclesaline.org or the Recycle Saline Facebook page to check out previous designs and get inspiration.

Part of why Recycle Saline holds Re-Fashion Bash, according to Dunn, is that it helps students think about what happens to recycled or discarded items. Dunn said it helps them think about saving items for alternative uses.

Each year Recycle Saline has seen more students taking part. Dunn hopes that in this year, the fifth, every age category will be full.

She said it a lot of fun for the children who participate.

Students can sign up through their school, email Dunn for a form or enter at the informational meeting.