

Troy Historic Village Scarecrow Spec Sheet

Frame: Pick up your wood frame from the Troy Historic Village! The 6-foot-tall frame (neck, spine, and leg) with a 2-foot crosspiece (shoulders) gives your scarecrow the basic shape and support it needs. You can build your own, but make sure we can secure it to a 6-foot yard stake. You will want a heavy-duty staple gun, waterproof glue (we use Fabri-Tac from Michaels), packaging tape, and/or rope and string to help secure items as you build.

Stuffing: We recommend you pad the frame with plastic bags, then slip clothing over the padded frame (much like a person getting dressed). Additional padding can be added to arms legs, and torso to fill out your scarecrow. **DO NOT USE STRAW OR PAPER** for padding/stuffing! They get wet, become heavy and saggy, attract bugs, and do not dry out. Styrofoam peanuts make a huge mess when we take things apart. Plastic grocery bags and similar material work the best! Start saving now – you will be amazed how much stuffing a body takes!

Clothes: Large or extra-large clothes fit the best and gives you more for your logo. A one-piece jumper, long dress, or uniform works well, but you may need to add a long-sleeved shirt to create arms. If you use jeans or pants, add suspenders or a rope tied like suspender to hold the pants up. Put them on first (we like to slip one leg in the post, the other can dangle) and secure the suspenders to the “shoulders,” then add your shirt/top. Use logo wear to promote your business or just have fun! Use a heavy-duty staple gun or waterproof glue when you have the look you want and are ready to secure everything!

Hands: Gloves of all types work well for hands. And don't forget your scarecrow can hold items unique to your business or organization! Secure everything with waterproof glue, staples, or stitching.

Head: Be creative! Use a foam/plastic pumpkin or better yet, make one out of material and stuff it with more plastic bags or pillow stuffing. We recommend you place the eyes halfway down the face, so you have room to add a hat or hair. Slide your head over the top of the frame, stuff it even more, and secure firmly with a staple gun or glue (remember how windy it gets in October!). Ears are usually NOT necessary unless important to your business. Find a great wig or choose a hat that expresses your business style (another great place to include a logo!) and make sure they are sewn, glued, or stapled to keep things from flying away.

Shoes: are not necessary, get too heavy, and should be avoided UNLESS they are critical part of your business profile. Adding socks stuffed with plastic works better if you want feet.

Be-Bold! While lots of people parked their cars and walked up to each scarecrow last year, thousands more only saw them from their car. Use bold colors and big letters! Add fishline to raise an arm and make your scarecrow wave or salute!

Polyurethane: Pizza boxes, moving boxes, and similar items are another way to show off your name and logo. Make sure you cover any cardboard with several layers of polyurethane to help it last longer in the rain!

Storage: Troy Historic Village does not have room to store scarecrows, and after a month outside you probably don't want to store them either. **Do not plan on getting ANYTHING back.** Please contact us before the end of October if you want to try to keep your scarecrow or important accessories.

Scarecrows must be Family Friendly! Hundreds of children love to visit our scarecrows every year, try to make something that will be great for a photo op with a 4-year-old! Your scarecrow can be refused without refund if deemed unsuitable.

For more information, please call the Troy Historic Village 248-524-3571 to be connected to a Scarecrow Row committee member.