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Our Mission

Reclaim Your Holidays helps Iowans create fun, meaningful holidays that are easier on the environment through practical, inspiring information, and opportunities to share ideas.

Our Sponsors

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Helping educators use RYH resources August 2016

Plan an RYH fall Open House the easy way!

Looking for an easy, fun way to bring new people into your facility for an event? Try using this plan for a Reclaim Your Holidays fall open house. Former Marshalltown professionals Diane Hall and Pam Blake developed the event. They hosted 70 attendees and 12 volunteers during the open house at the Marshalltown Public Library a few years ago. Their plan is now an activity on the RYH Tools for Educators database. Take a look at how they got many people to make a mix gift, tell what they liked about the holidays, and much more!

NEW! Pick 5 activity available for elementary ages

A favorite RYH activity, the Pick 5 Survey, now engages many more audiences to help them decide options most essential to a good quality of life. New Pick 5s target first, fourth and sixth grade students plus college-aged students. You'll find them all in the in The Way We Live Educator Resources database. Look them over and make a plan to use them this fall for your organization's activities.

How I use RYH resources to meet my audience's needs

Lilly Jensen, education/outreach, Winneshiek County Conservation

In the next few months, I'll again focus RYH activities for youth and schools on waste reduction. I use the RYH resources on how much waste is generated over the holidays. I challenge students to think of ways they can reduce their holiday waste.

We make wrapping paper out of rolls of newsprint from the local recycling center, gift bags out of newspapers or old maps, and ornaments out of scrap fabric. For older audiences, I use the 5-minute assessment tool.
and a modified version of *Making a Plan to Reclaim Your Holidays*. I give people plenty of time to share ideas and inspiration. They're encouraged to focus on the successful aspects of their holidays. Participants gain ideas to make changes in their holiday routines and develop concrete plans on how to follow through with those ideas.

Create your own mixes for fun gifts

Marshalltown Open House participants made their own gift mixes for cookies and soups. It’s an easy activity to plan, especially if you start now for a fall/winter event. A Dubuque RYH trainer found many recipes on this [web site](#). A local organization donated the jars. Here’s the RYH version of Make a Mix activity.

Let us know your RYH plans for this fall!

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