

Our Goals for the day are to:

1. Transform materials that might otherwise go to the landfill into unique and inspiring creations;
2. Create functional and beautiful items that will have broad appeal in the Missoula community and our Benefit Auction;
3. Have lots of fun being creative and spontaneous while working *safely* and cooperatively as we build a culture of reuse;
4. Comply with building, social distancing, and COVID-related safety protocols to promote the safety and health of attendees;
5. And, last but certainly not least, raise awareness about waste reduction.

Important Reminders:

1. **Home ReSource is following [local](#) and [national](#) COVID-19 guidelines. All SponCon participants, attendees, volunteers, and staff are required to comply with our safety and sanitation protocols at the time of the event.** These protocols are subject to change. We will communicate requirements and expectations as the event approaches and keep you updated to the best of our ability.
2. **No dogs allowed at Home ReSource during SponCon.** For the safety of our four-legged friends, please leave all dogs at home.
3. **All creations are property of Home ReSource.** As our Community Sustainability Programs flourish, we are turning to the community to support the costs of the programs. SponCon creations are the keystone of the live auction at our annual Banquet & Benefit Auction. We want you to build great items. Teams may request to take home items that are not going to the auction. If you want to build a project at Home ReSource for the community, please contact info@homeresource.org to set something up or ask about Materials Giving.
4. **Items that are excessively heavy or large are hard to move and we may not be able to use them.** Please keep that in mind. Thanks!

The Logistics:

1. **You can enter as an individual or as a team.** Teams are up to 5 people and fall into 2 categories: **Professional & General.**
2. **Worksite size.** **Professional** teams will be provided an 18'x12' workspace; **General** teams will be provided a 9'x12' workspace.
3. **Power.** **Professional** team worksites will have 110v power provided. Teams with generators are encouraged to bring them. **General** team worksites will not have power provided, but an electrical station will be available for charging batteries and testing any electrical elements of construction projects.
4. **Kids and teens are encouraged to participate.** Teams with kids under 12 must have at least 2 adults per team. Teen teams ages 12-18 must have at least one adult supervisor per team.
5. **There is a Mandatory Orientation!** Your team must send ONE team member to the orientation session at Home ReSource on Wed. Sept. 15 from 6-7:30pm. All teams **MUST** comply, even if you've done SponCon before! You will learn about COVID protocols, construction guidelines, what materials are available, get good advice from experienced participants, sneak preview materials, have a chance to ask questions, and more.
6. **Pro team check-in begins at 7:30 a.m.; General at 8:00 am.** All team members must sign in and complete paperwork before starting.
7. **All contestants must sign a liability waiver!** Please be careful! Be aware of those around you! Work cautiously and safely!
8. **The contest begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. sharp!** Judging will conclude at 5 p.m. and we will announce grand prize contenders and give out prizes.
9. **Home ReSource will be CLOSED for business during the contest.** This will allow teams to spread out and minimize the number of people on-site. Contestants still must respect the operations of the store and not depend on

any help from working employees, must not take materials that are marked “off limits,” and must not go in areas marked “off limits.”

10. **Home ReSource will provide materials** (See list below.) “Off limits” items will be clearly marked throughout the store; everything else is fair game. Contestants are allowed to bring some of their own raw materials. Pre-assembling pieces and parts is discouraged as it is a punch in the gut of spontaneity. Keep it fair!
11. **Home ReSource staff and volunteers are available to answer your questions and enforce safety regulations, but they are not there to help you search for materials or solve construction problems.** Finding your own solutions is an important aspect of the contest!
12. **Cut and weld stations.** Saw and metal working stations will be available for contestants. These are available for all contestants so please be considerate of others as you use these services.

The Rules:

1. **All contestants must provide all their own tools (hand and powered).** See “Tool Recommendations” below.
2. **All team members must wear safety equipment.** Required safety and personal protective equipment (PPE) includes:
 - Close-toed shoes (must be worn at all times during the competition)
 - Safety glasses (must be worn at all times during the competition, ANSI-approved lenses)
 - Ear protection (must be worn when operating power tools or near power tools in operation)
3. **Follow safety protocol for the tools you are using.** Make sure all guards are in place, electrical cords are in good condition, use push sticks on table saws etc. Have situational awareness! Don’t smack your neighbor with a 2x4.
4. **Safety personnel will enforce safety rules.** Safety personnel will be on the lookout for violations including:
 - Misuse of or not wearing PPE
 - Blatant disregard for safety of yourself or others
 - Improper use of tools, equipment or unsafe use of materials.
 - Failure to comply with health and sanitation protocols
5. **Safety violations will be penalized.** If you or a member of your team violate a safety rule, you will be issued a YELLOW CARD and be required to take a “time out.” The length of the “time out” is: ten (10) minutes for the first violation, twenty (20) minutes for the second violation, and thirty (30) minutes for the third violation. If one person from your team is in violation of the rules your ENTIRE team must stop all operations and can only resume normal operations after the “time out.”
6. **No chainsaws.** No exceptions.
7. **Don’t build weapons!** You’re probably not going to go hunting with it, so build something useful. (One year a dog almost got squashed by a bowling ball hurled from a trebuchet). Seriously, no weapons! And no dogs, either!
8. **At 4 p.m. your area must be cleaned of all scraps and unused materials,** leaving your masterpiece standing proud and shiny in the middle of your space along with the completed form that includes title & brief description of your creation and a few other bits of info.
9. We do not require it, but we strongly encourage you to **HAVE FUN.**

General Recommendations:

1. **Contestants are encouraged to bring their own supplies of fasteners, adhesives, etc.** You can use Home ReSource nails, wire, bolts and other fasteners available in the store on the day of the event, but it may not be what you need once inspiration hits.
2. **Professional teams! Please bring extension cords, the heavier gauge the better, and power boxes (like heavy duty power strips) if possible.** This will make it easier for everyone to get the power they need.
3. **Plan to finish building by 3 p.m.** That way you can spend the last hour tightening up, applying finishing touches, and allowing paint to dry. As you get closer to 3 p.m., if you’re way behind, narrow your focus, scale down your vision.
4. **Painting/staining.** If you paint or stain your creation, it MUST be dry by 4 p.m. for the contest judging. Spray paint is discouraged due to toxicity, wind, and resulting potential nastiness. Natural oil or wax finishes are encouraged but are in limited supply at the store.

Tool Recommendations:

We highly recommend that you bring the following items for yourself:

- Work gloves
- Tape measures
- Hammers
- Handsaws
- Carpenter's squares
- Metal cutting hacksaws
- Battery-powered drill and/or screw gun, plus pre-charged backup batteries
- Drill bits in a wide range of sizes
- A variety of pliers, vice grips, and wrenches
- Wire cutters
- Sandpaper, glues, oils, wax, specialized fasteners, and other such consumable products
- Tin snips

Note: If you don't have all the tools you need, you may be able to check them out from the Tool Library at *Missoula Urban Demonstration Project*. For more info call 721-7513 or 549-6790. Also check www.mudproject.org for a list of tools.

Home ReSource materials available free for all contestants:

- Miscellaneous, wacky, and weird lumber, trim, etc.
- Ceiling fans
- Plumbing supplies
- Sinks, toilets, perhaps even a bathtub or two – (but remember the weight/size rule!)
- Single-pane windows, screens, and frames
- Random metal pipe, conduit, etc.
- PVC pipes and fittings
- A smorgasbord of hardware, including hinges, nails, screws, doorknobs, etc.
- Funky light fixtures, globes and parts
- Tile
- Duct fittings
- Electrical wire of various sizes, junction boxes, etc.
- Cabinet doors, drawers, shelves, maybe a lazy Susan Hollow core doors (what lovely canvasses they make!)
- Fireplace hardware (but no fires, please!)

Home ReSource materials not available for free (you must get approval from the event coordinators to use these or buy them yourself):

- Beautiful antique lumber
- Vintage light fixtures and other antique items of value
- Wood panel doors
- Beams and large dimensional lumber
- Any other items clearly marked as off limit

Judging the contest:

- Starting at 3 p.m., the contest judges will review all creations. A limited number of creations will be selected as grand prize contenders. All items will be sold at the auction or in the store at Home ReSource; benefits support our community sustainability programs.
- **Every team is a winner.**

Grand Prize Contenders, First Friday & Annual Banquet

- At 5:15 p.m., the award ceremony will kick off. Prizes will be awarded to all teams and Grand Prize contenders will be announced.
- During judging, creations will be selected to go to the [Home ReSource Banquet & Benefit Auction](#) on Friday, October 15 at the Wilma and may be featured in a special First Friday Auction Sneak Preview event.
- The Grand Prize winner will be announced at the auction and awarded with the Grand Prize!
- Teams are encouraged to participate in the Benefit Auction to bask in the glory of your amazing creation.
- **Questions?** Call 541-8301