



Kinder Critters Contest

Tips for Working with Students



REMEMBER . . .

Primary communication with Coaches and Sponsors is done through e-mail provided with the School/Group Registration done online. If a coach or sponsor is not receiving e-mail information about the contest, he or she should check Spam/Junk folders on the computer and contact Academic Rodeo for assistance with getting the current information.

Deadlines exist for a reason. Please be aware of them and follow them. The **Academic Rodeo Calendar** in a true calendar format can be found on the Getting Started or General Info pages. The **Kinder Critters Timeline** is on the Kinder Critters page. If you have a problem with a date or deadline, please contact Academic Rodeo, realizing that usually it is not possible to make a change or give “grace” for deadlines. Often judging or other timings are scheduled close to the due date. To be sure your students get to participate, follow the deadlines.

Kinder Critters projects are submitted in November or December to allow time for judging in the late fall with announcement of results in January.

Tips for making the critters:

- Think of Kinder Critters as Art meets Mindset Breaking Experience for Kindergarten students.
- Provide many common items for the children to choose from in selecting items for their creations.
- Do NOT provide a “model” for the students to follow. If you do, you will get many of the same thing with slight variations.
- Instead, allow children to be creative.
- You may want to discuss creatures or critters to let them form ideas of what this creation may be. Encourage them to create a new creature or critter unlike any other.
- Many children make familiar creatures – giraffes, spiders, elephants, etc. – which is perfectly fine. However, the truly creative “Critter” is one that comes from the child’s imagination. Encourage that creativity rather than having all students do a similar project.
- Allow the child to make the critter in any form desired, using whatever materials available are of interest.
- Keep the critter contained within the “walls” of the box so the lid can be placed on the box, and it can stack easily on others.
- Many like to decorate the outside of the box with paper or paint. This is perfectly fine but discourage attaching items to the outside of the box. This does not enhance the possibility of placing. Keep the creation within the box, again making storage and display easier.
- The label provided on the Kinder Critters page goes on the bottom of the box. It does not need to be visible when the critter is judged and displayed.
- The teacher or the student may print the name of the Critter and attach inside the box in a visible place for consideration in judging. Again, allow the child to be creative in naming the critter.