

Parachutes For the Planet!

For Educators

What?

- A youth inspired [collective international art project](#) illustrating concern for climate change
- Started by then 13-year old [Kallan Benson](#) from Maryland in the USA
- Encourages students to think about local and global issues as they design and create a group parachute
- Gives participants an opportunity to display their message locally, nationally, and internationally
- Coming in 2019: Displays planned for Victoria outside Legislative Assembly (May). Stay tuned for more!
- **For questions**, contact Judy Betts at (250) 551-4617 or email BCParachutes@gmail.com



PLEASE READ ON FOR MORE DETAILS...



Why Parachutes?

Saving the environment is vital to our health, safety and future, and “parachutes” are a metaphor for this process. These parachutes (non-functional) are circular pieces of cloth decorated with artwork and personal comments about our concerns for the health of our planet.

Parachutes can be seen as “safety nets” and when held by groups during demonstrations or collectively displayed in large numbers, they transform into powerful messages of strength, hope and communal determination.

For more info on project: motherearthproject.org/parachutes/

How Do You Make a Parachute?

[Here is a fun video](#) describing how to make a parachute, by the young person who came up with the initiative.



Detailed instructions are also [at this link](#).

You can use a [large drop cloth](#), a [play parachute](#), a tablecloth, or a used bedsheet. Cut into a large circle.

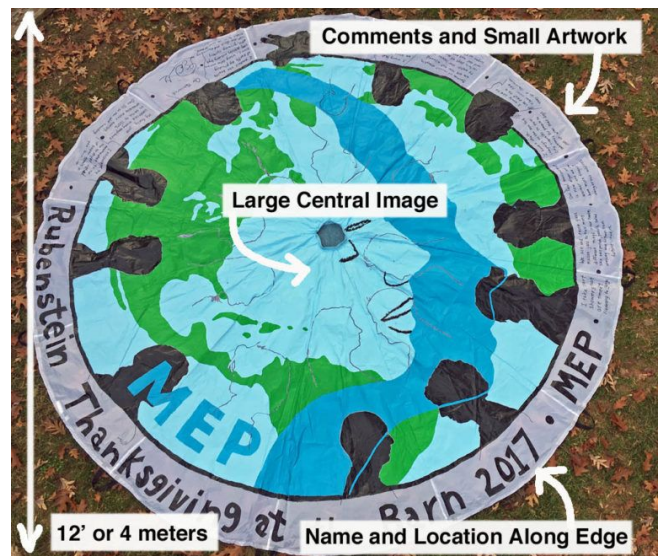
There are no size restrictions, but we suggest at least 2 meters in diameter. Smaller is okay, though.

Use acrylic, latex, or fabric paints and/or permanent markers. Be sure paint is not too thick, so parachute can be folded or rolled up without chipping. Do not use water-soluble paints or markers unless you use a waterproof fixative afterwards.

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Ideas for Designing Your Parachute

- Involve your group to explore your shared values, concerns and vision for a healthy planet Earth.
- Tie the project into your curriculum and link to sustainability and climate change. Here are [some resources](#) put together by the Columbia Basin Environmental Education Network.
- Use the center of the parachute for your image(s) and reserve the edge to identify who you are and where you are from. Lettering should be at least 10 cm tall.
- Remember that you want a design that is eye catching from far away.
- [Here are some pictures](#) of completed parachutes from across the world, as well as [Canadian parachutes](#).
- Feel free to use or modify [this Prezi](#) created by a couple of teenagers who brought Parachutes for the Planet into Nelson, BC schools. They include some good questions to ponder when considering a design.



What Next?

- Display your parachute at your school or other public place. Be sure to take a picture for your local newspaper.
- Consider joining a local parachutes display so students can see their parachute in a larger context and magnify your voice. Earth Day 2019 is a good opportunity!
- Bring to meetings with your elected representatives. Use social media if appropriate.
- **Have your parachute be part of a regional or national display.** A display of BC parachutes is planned for Victoria on May 13, organized by non profit, non partisan group [Citizens' Climate Lobby](#). After that they will be sent to be part of larger international displays (unless noted).
- **Please register your parachute here** and include a brief story about it and your organization. (25-300 words).



Getting your parachute to Victoria for BC Display

1. Please mail or drop off your inspired and inspiring parachute to:
Judy O'Leary, 324 Observatory St., Nelson, BC V1L 4Y5 by May 1, 2019.
2. Don't forget to include your school or organizations' name and where you are from.
3. Thank you for "being the change" and giving a voice to those who will be most impacted by climate change.

THANK YOU!



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