Dear Coordinator,

Thank you for your interest in Battle of the Tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Fort Worth. Collecting tabs is a great way for all of us to really make a difference in the lives of families and children in need!

The first ever Battle of the Tabs is a competition between local schools to see who can donate the most pounds of pop tabs to RMHFW. The competition begins at the start of the 2017-2018 school year and the winner will be announced on Earth Day, April 22, 2018. The winning school will receive a special trophy.

Please read over the enclosed information carefully. You will find useful information that you can use to get your group’s collection campaign started, as well as many useful activities you can incorporate for kids. There is also helpful information on collection containers, drop-off information and tools to promote your group’s participation in this program.

I hope your group finds this project rewarding. If we can be of assistance in any way, please feel free to contact us at (817) 870-4942 or e-mail: Madison.Buckner@RMHFW.org.

Sincerely,

Madison Buckner
Development Coordinator
Pop Tab Collection Program Basics

In the 2016/2017 school year, schools competing in the Battle of the Tabs collected 659 pounds! This year our goal is 1,000 pounds. The competition will end on April 16, 2018 and the winner will be announced on Earth Day, April 22, 2018.

This competition was created to get students and schools more involved in the community and to raise money for the House families. By collecting tabs, we are able to support our families’ stay at the House during their child’s serious medical emergency. We want to thank those who will participate in the program.

How does the program work?

Q: What are the pop tabs used for?
A: The aluminum pop tabs are recycled, just like you would recycle plastic containers or newspapers. The money generated from recycling the tabs is used in a general operating budget to ensure that the House remains open for families of sick or injured children.

Q: How much do you receive from recycling pop tabs?
A: The price of aluminum changes on a regular basis depending on the supply and demand. On average, the Ronald McDonald House receives $0.40-0.70 per pound of aluminum tabs.

Q: How do you donate?
A: You can either bring your pop tabs to RMHFW or you can take them to a local recycling center and then will receive and mail us the check.

Getting Started

Once you have decided to start your collection drive, you need to get your school excited about the project. Many schools do this by having contests between the grades or offering incentives to the top collectors. Usually, it is enough to just explain the purpose of the tab collection projects and how it benefits families and children in need, however, we have added curriculum ideas. Once you decide to promote your collection drive, it is important that each participant have a goal to reach. Charting the progress of the collection drive in a visible area is a great way for each participant to stay motivated. A bulletin board, handout or newsletters are great ways to promote the project.
Registration and Support

Our registration form can be found on the last page of our materials. All we need from you is the school name, what grades will be participating, and contact information. You can also request for one of the RMHFW staff members to present at your school on this form. If you have any questions, please contact Development Coordinator, Madison Buckner at (817) 870-4942 or madison.buckner@rmhfw.org.

Marketing Ideas

2.) Work with the local community to solicit free incentives to reward students for their participation in the pop tab program.
3.) McDonald's restaurants throughout Texas are very supportive of the pop tab program and may lend assistance to your school in the areas of marketing and logistical support. Please contact the McDonald’s restaurant in your area for more information.

Collection Container Ideas

1.) At Home: Encourage students’ parents to have collection containers at home. Soup cans, plastic baggies and cardboard boxes work well as tab collection containers.
2.) At your School: Many schools choose to use a large collection container centrally located in areas such as the school lobby, cafeteria or gym. Larger containers must be strongly reinforced in order to hold large amounts of pop tabs. Many schools have had their “industrial tech” departments make a container as a class project. Students can also make their own containers for home use as part of an art project. Other schools have used donated telephone booths and bathtubs as fun ideas to display their collected tabs. Another idea is to string the pop tabs on fishing wire and hang them down a hallway above classroom doors, marking off tabs by 100’s and 1,000’s to help students visualize quantities.
How do we know how many pop tabs we have?

There is no reason to count individual tabs unless you want to have students count them as part of a related project. The best way to keep track of the number of tabs collected is to estimate. You can do this by weighing the tabs on a scale. Use the following information to calculate the amount of tabs your group has collected:

1 Pound = 1,000 Pop Tabs
1,000 Pounds = 1 Million Tabs

Dropping Off Your Tabs

Contact Madison Buckner at Madison.Buckner@rmhfw.org, if you have any questions.

1. **Drop off your pop tabs at the Ronald McDonald House**, located at 1001 8th Street, Fort Worth, TX 76104. Due to storage abilities, we will not be accepting drop-offs until March 2017. If you plan to drop off your tabs at the House, please call ahead. Tabs may be dropped off between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. during the week and Noon-4pm on assigned weekends. We will send out a reminder closer to the dates with more details. **Sorry, the Ronald McDonald House cannot pick up the tabs from your group, school or organization.**

2. **Deliver your tabs to a local Recycling Center throughout the State of Texas.** This can be done at any time during the competition! You just take your tabs to your nearest scrap metal or recycling processing business, collect the money they offer, and send that (in the form of a check) made out to Ronald McDonald House of Fort Worth, Attn: Battle of the Tabs, 1001 8th Street, Fort Worth, TX 76104. Remember to tell us the name of your school, your complete mailing address, and a contact name and telephone number. We want to know the check is coming from you!
Suggested Press Release Format

Alter this sample press release to fit your exact goals and plans for collecting tabs.

Contact:  
Name  
School  
Telephone Number

Release Date: ________________

NEWS RELEASE

<<Name of School, Group or Organization>> competes in “Battle of the Tabs” for the Ronald McDonald House of Fort Worth.

The <<staff and students>> of <<name of school, group or organization>> are helping the Ronald McDonald House of Fort Worth – one pop tab at a time.

<<Name of school>> is collecting aluminum tabs from soda cans to help generate needed funds to help provide a “home-away-from-home” for families of seriously ill or injured children receiving treatment at Cook Children’s, Harris Medical, and other Fort Worth-area hospitals. Donating or recycling pop tabs to RMHFW is one of the easiest ways to support these families.

“Battle of the Tabs” was started by the RMHFW staff and Corbin Foster, a former House resident. Corbin and his family stayed at the House in 2008 while he was receiving treatment at Cook Children’s. He now wants to give back and thought a competition among the schools would be a great way to raise money for the House. <<Name of school>> is doing their part by entering RMHFW’s first ever Battle of the Tabs.

The Ronald McDonald House of Fort Worth first opened its doors in 1981 to assist families from Texas and nearby states who had to travel to Fort Worth for their child’s medical care. The House provides a loving, caring and affordable place for thousands of families each year. With costly medical expenses, most families are not able to afford hotel rooms over a long period of time. With the support of <<Name of school, group or organization>>, the Ronald McDonald House will continue to serve families in need by providing them with the rest and support they need to remain strong for their hospitalized child.

For more information on how you can help <<Name of school >> reach their goal of collecting the most tabs, contact <<name of contact person>> at <<telephone number>>.
Classroom Activities

There are several fun ways you can bring learning into your classroom by competing in Battle of the Tabs!

Math
- For younger students, have them guess how many pop tabs can fit into a jar, can, box, etc. and then have them count the pop tabs as they fill the object.
- For older students, they can weigh, measure, count, and graph the numbers
  - How many weigh the same as a stapler (or other classroom objects)?
  - How many tabs would it take to wrap around the world?

Science
- What is aluminum and where does it come from? What is its primary use?
- Experiments
  - What happens when it gets cold?
  - Does it react with other chemicals?
  - How does recycling aluminum help the environment?
    - What do they use the recycled aluminum for?
- For fun facts about aluminum, visit: http://www.livescience.com/28865-aluminum.html

History
- Research aluminum’s history and chart progress and use over time.

Language Arts/English
- Write short story about volunteering, aluminum, recycling, or pop tabs.
- Write essay about recycling or volunteering.
  - Why is it good that we recycle/volunteer?
- Word Search (see next page)

Art
- Make fun creations with pop tabs.
  - Similar to thumb-print art, have students use their imagination to create a pop tab character!
  - Trace pop tabs
- Build and/or decorate a collection box for the pop tabs.
- Use string and ribbons to make jewelry.
### Battle of the Tabs

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Battle of the Tabs Registration Form

Name of School: ______________________________

Grades Participating: ______________________________

Request for RMHFW Staff Presentation:

• Dates: ______________________________

Contact Info:

• Coordinator Name: ______________________________

• Email: ______________________________

• Phone Number: ______________________________

• School Address:

                                    
                                    
                                    
                                    

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