

WATER BOTTLE SEA CREATURES DESIGN CHALLENGE

AGES

Children 5+ years

Tweens

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This is a contest you can run at the beginning of the summer reading program, or make it a take-home component of any program about plastic pollution or recycling. Each child receives a recycled plastic water bottle to turn into a sea creature of their choosing. Prepare take-and-make bags that include various art supplies, or tell them they must use recyclable materials found around their homes to make their creature. Optionally, children could build dioramas as well. One week later, they return entries to the library to be displayed. You can have a committee judge them by age group, or let it be a people's choice award. Offer prizes such as reusable water bottles, and display the entries all summer for easy, ocean-themed décor!

TIP:

Consider enlisting teen judges!



Image source: Sidnie Srader of Jones Public Library, Dayton, TX

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Preparation:

- Decide how you would like to run your contest and create a list of guidelines.
- Set out a box to collect donated plastic water bottles.
- When each child registers, give them a water bottle and contest guidelines.
- Display the entries when they are returned.
- Gather a panel of judges, or public vote, judge the entries.
- Give the winners a special homemade award, recognition on the website/socials/newsletter, or extra entries into the grand prize drawing.

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

You will need a display area for the submissions. Solo-librarian friendly. If you choose to have a panel of judges, consider your local city council, library board, celebrities, or people who work in environmental stewardship.

RESOURCES

Books

A Crabby Book series (2019) by Jonathan Fenske (children's)