

Build a Recycled bird feeder

Materials

- 2-Liter bottles – 1/scout (plus extra for mistakes)
- Wooden spoons – 2/scout
- Cutting tools like sharp tipped scissors and box cutters – 1 scissor/scout (box cutters for teachers/TAs to start holes)
- First aid kit – 1/class of scouts
- Rulers or tape measure
- Black permanent marker (Sharpies) to mark the holes
- Threaded eye screw and twine OR plastic coated wire (large gauge is good) and wire cutters – 1/bottle

Procedure

Use the rulers or tape measure and markers to note where the holes should go before cutting (especially if someone else is making the starting holes with a box cutter). Scouts should use scissors to cut clean-edged holes in the plastic bottle (no sharp edges to poke the birds you are trying to help).

1. Cut a ½ inch hole about 4 inches from the bottom of the bottle. Turn the bottle 90 degrees and cut a second ½ inch hole two inches from the bottom.
2. Cut 1-inch holes opposite the two ½ inch holes.
3. Poke the spoons through the holes so the ladle or bowl end of the spoon sticks out of the 1-inch holes.
4. To hang the bottle, there are several options. Depending on your supplies (and how large or heavy your bottle is) you could use:
 - a. Threaded eye screw and twine (as in the picture below): carefully twist the screw into the cap of the bottle (pre-drilling with a tiny drill bit could help but make sure the screw won't be pulled out of the cap by the weight of the filled bottle) and use a cut length of twine looped through the eye of the screw to hang the bottle in a tree.
 - b. Plastic coated wire and wire cutters: begin by wrapping the wire tightly around the neck of the bottle (just a couple of times) and leave a length of wire (at least 10 inches) before cutting the wire from the spool. The length of wire can be bent (large horseshoe shape) into a loop, up and over the cap of the bottle and twisted around the wrapped wire to secure it, to be used as a hanger. If the trees in your yard have thicker branches, use twine to suspend the bottle from the branch by tying the twine to the hanger.

