

# Mission Monday Activities

## POLLINATION NATION!

### INDOOR

#### POLLINATOR PALACE

*Pollinators live in many different places, from the trees to the soil in our gardens. Most pollinators are solitary, meaning they live on their own typically ground-nesting rather than residing in hives! Bees are continually looking for the smallest hole to call home. Sometimes even being abandoned snail shells! We can help pollinators by making an insect hotel. This hotel will help house many pollinators or just giving them a safe place to rest!*



#### Supplies:

- Old coffee cup
- Optional sharpies or paint, to decorate mug.
- Sticks
- Old thin cardboard, paper, or card stock
- String
- Old fabric
- Hot glue

#### What to do:

#### Preparation:

- First, you will want to decorate your mug! It can be fun and bright or even blend in artist choice!
  - If decorating with markers, seal it by baking for 30 minutes at 350°F.
  - If decorating with paint, use non-toxic paint, making it safe for kids and animals.
- Gather sticks to fill your mug or roll paper/card stock into small tubes. You want your pieces to fit down in your mug leaving all kinds of nooks and crannies for our insect friends.

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## Assemble:

- Once you have all your tubes and sticks, collect them into a bundle making sure they fill the mug then tie them together with the sting.
- Next, take your scrap fabric and wrap that around the bundle adding more cushion.
- Finally, add some hot glue around the inside of your mug and slide the fabric-coated bundle in securing it in place!

## Display:

- Presto! Instant insect hotel! Now you can place your hotel outside on the ground or even hang it from a tree. After some time, you should start to see little critters move in. Make sure to stop by to say hi to your new neighbors!

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## OUTDOOR

### POLLINATOR REST STOP

*All creatures, even pollinators, need to stay hydrated in the hot summer heat! Finding a safe shallow water source can be hard for some of our pollinators. Build a safe place for pollinators to rest and drink fresh water*



### **Supplies:**

- Any container that will hold water
  - Large bowl, garden pot, recycled container
- Natural like items
  - Stones, marbles, glass
- Optional items
  - Fruit, sugar water

### **What to Do:**

#### Preparation:

- First, clean out your container with soap and water and dry thoroughly.
- This is also a good time to decorate the outside of your container if your builder would like.

#### Assemble:

- Now fill your container with your natural items like rocks or marbles. You want it to be almost full with less than an inch at the top of the container.
- Then you will need to find a good spot for your pollinator palace outdoors, possibly near a garden or by a tree.
- Once you have a good location now is time to add fresh water filling the container up all the way!
- For an added bonus you can also place fruit and sugar water by your palace to add an extra energy boost for your bees and butterflies! Pollinating is exhausting work and the extra sugar can be lifesaving on a hot day!