ACTIVITY BOOKLET

WORLD OCEANS DAY
JUNE 8th

Recycled Bubbles

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Learning objective and notes	Materials and set up
Make homemade bubbles while talking about environmental issues. All ages	Homemade bubbles, plastic 1 liter and 2 liter bottles, fly swatters

Activity description

Ahead of time make the bubble solution and let it sit overnight, and cut the bottom off of the pop bottles.

During the activity, allow visitors to blow bubbles using the plastic pop bottles. They do not touch their mouths to the bottles, but instead they wrap their hand around the mouth of the bottle and blow on their hand. Then, they dip the cut end of the bottle into a tray (we use frisbees) of bubble solution. Also, you can dip clean fly swatters into the bubble solution and whip back and forth to make lots small bubbles. The fly swatters are great for younger visitors that don't understand the concept of "blowing" bubbles yet.

Signs and interpreters can talk about environmental issues. Here is one example of what we talk about:
Q: Are you one of those people who think you'll save energy and water if you wash your car at home?
A: Sorry. Just the opposite is true. When you wash your car in your driveway or on the street, the wash and rinse water – loaded with dirt, exhaust fumes, oil and detergent – runs off down the storm drain and eventually into rivers, lakes and streams. All that dirt can contaminate the water and threaten the fish, birds and other wildlife that live there. Plus, washing a car at home usually uses far more water than at a car wash, since so many people just leave the hose running while they wash the car. The alternative? A commercial car wash.

By law (in both the U.S. and Canada), commercial car washes must drain their wastewater into sewer systems so it can be treated before being discharged back into waterways. If you must wash your car at home, do so on lawn or gravel to minimize run-off into the street.