ACTIVITY BOOKLET

WORLD OCEANS DAY
JUNE 8th

Marine Debris Coral Reef Sculpture

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Learning objective and notes

Visitors will understand that disposable plastics often become marine debris. Visitors will be able to identify three of the most commonly found marine debris items on Oregon Beaches. Visitors will participate in creating a community sculpture out of marine debris. All ages, free-flow activity for visitors throughout event

Materials and set up

- large plastic tub
- kebab skewers
- chicken wire
- mild bleach solution
- plastic debris of various sizes
- drill

Activity description

PREP: The setup for this activity is a bit of work initially, but then can be used over and over with little additional prep.

We created a base out of a large plastic tub turned upside down with a chicken wire frame over the top. We then wired larger pieces of marine debris (plastic and styrofoam pieces) onto the chicken wire until it was covered. This created our base "coral head". We then drilled holes into the plastic pieces large enough to accommodate kebab skewers.

We then had staff and volunteers collect marine debris from local beaches (bottle caps, styrofoam, rope pieces, any small plastic pieces). We accepted bottle caps that had not been on the beach yet, too, as that is a commonly found item. We soaked the

debris in a mild bleach solution to clean. We then had a volunteer who used a drill press to drill a hole in each piece (this goes pretty quickly!).

EVENT: The coral head base was set out in one of our outdoor courtyards with a table of supplies next to it. The table included an information board on marine debris and take-home materials. There were bowls of marine debris sorted by type, along with the skewers. Youth volunteers lead the activity with visitors as they approached the area, inviting them to create a branch of "coral" for the reef out of marine debris and adding it to the sculpture. Branches were attached by visitors by pushing the skewers into the pre-drilled holes, or directly into the sytrofoam. Guests walking by throughout the day witnessed the continual growth of the "reef" as visitors added one branch at a time. The branches can be pulled out and dismantled and used over and over again.