

Reduce
Re-use
Recycle



Bottle Fish!

Turn Trash into Treasure at Your Water Celebration

Bottle fish are "popping" up all over the Greater Kansas City Metro Area. From the Kansas City Zoo's *Party for the Planet* to the *Olathe Aquafest* and *Lenexa Waterfest*, kids learn the lessons of "re-use" by turning discarded two-liter bottles into artful aquatic creatures. You can re-create this activity at your water celebration using the following steps and tips from Carly Adams of City of Olathe Municipal Services.

Materials:

- Empty 2-liter bottles (smaller bottles have sharp edges when cut, and are more difficult to paint)
- Small (~1") black sponge brushes (available in large bags from Hobby Lobby or discount store)
- "Washable" paint (not watercolor, but washable tempera or the equivalent)
- Solid-colored round stickers (such as garage sale labels)
- Newspaper, paper lunch bags, wet wipes & paper towels
- Stapler & plenty of staples

Preparation:

Collect and prepare the bottles prior to the water celebration. To remove labels, fill the bottle with about 2" of hot water, then rest the bottle on its side (the side where the label is glued). Label should peel off easily after about 30 seconds.

Cut the bottoms off of the bottles (this part of the bottle makes a perfect paint tray)

Then, cut another 2" or so off the bottle (not the neck-end), but do not shape it into a fishtail.

Cover your work surface with newspaper, and prepare your work area with plenty of wet wipes, paper towels, bottle bottom trays, paints, sponge brushes, staplers, and stickers

Water Celebration Procedure:

Distribute a bottle to each child. Children will hold the neck of the bottle as they paint the inside. Stickers can be used to create eyes on the fish. When the paint dries, children may need help shaping and stapling the large end of the bottle into the fish tail. Brown paper lunch bags work well for sending the fish home with kids, especially if they have not had a chance to dry.



Questions? Contact:

Carly Adams
Environmental Program Coordinator
City of Olathe Municipal Services
(913) 971-9057 cadams@olatheks.org