



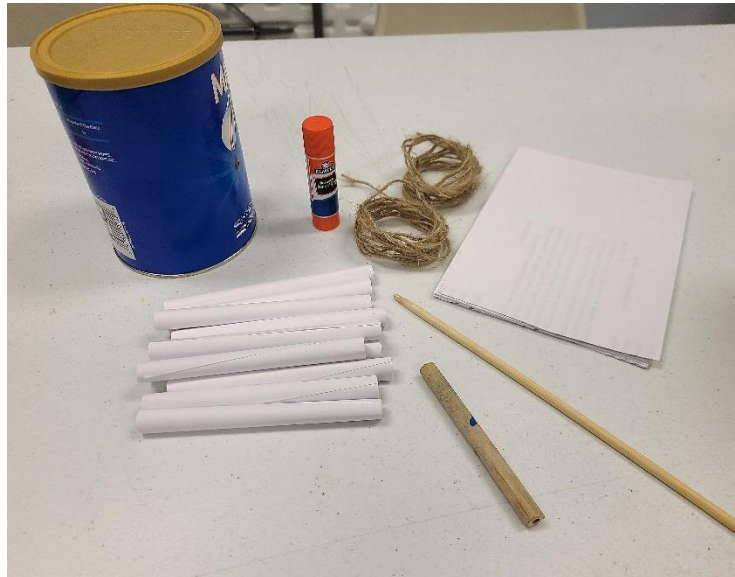
# Ravenswood Public Library 2021 Summer Reading Program



## Bee Hotels

### Supplies included:

- Metal canister
- Glue stick
- 2 lengths of twine
- Paper strips
- Several example paper bee tubes
- 1 chopstick (for removing tubes from roller)
- 1 dowel (for rolling paper tubes)

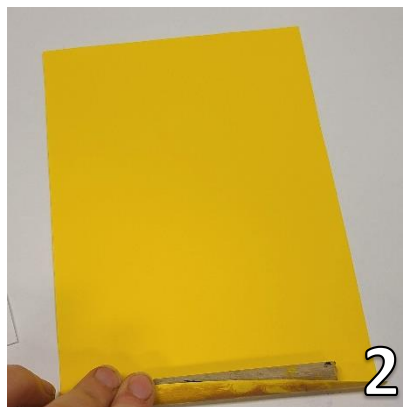
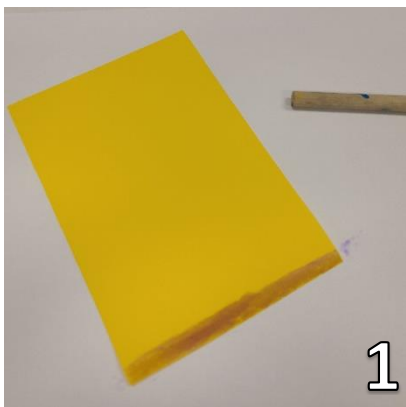


### You will need:

- A pair of scissors
- Decorations for your hotel (e.g. paints, colored tape, stickers)

### Instructions:

1. **Make you bee tubes.** Set down a piece of paper or one of the included strips to protect your work surface from glue. Apply a line of nontoxic glue to one of the short edges of your paper. <sup>(1)</sup> Flip the paper and roll snugly around your cylinder, keeping the tube as straight as you can. <sup>(2)</sup> Apply another line of glue at the end of your paper and roll to secure. <sup>(3)</sup> If necessary, use your chopstick to help push the roller out of the tubes.



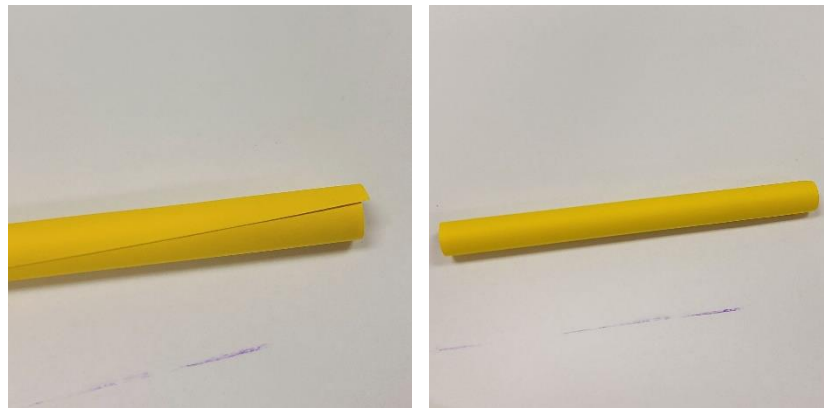


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- a. Be careful not to make your tubes too large. Ideally, your tubes should be 5/16 inches in diameter to attract native mason bees. If your tubes are too large bees won't move in, but wasps might!
- b. The number of tubes you'll need depends on how large you make your tubes, and how tightly you pack them. For our hotels, it took about tubes to pack the canister.

2. **Trim your bee tubes.** It's important that your tubes lie flat against the back of the canister. If any of your tubes are crooked, trim the end flat with a pair of scissors



3. **Fill your canisters\*.** Begin by packing shorter tubes around the outside edge of the canister, placing the flattest end of your tube against the bottom of your canister. <sup>(1)</sup> If you have difficulty keeping the tubes in place, set them aside to ensure you have enough shorter tubes for the edge. Pack the rest of the tubes into your canister. <sup>(2)</sup> (It might be easier to turn the canister sideways for this) Shake the canister to help the tubes settle. Continue packing in more tubes until you can no longer feel them moving when you shake the canister. <sup>(3)</sup>

- a. \* If you want to mount your hotel directly to a beam or tree with a screw, mount it after decorating, but before packing your tubes in your canister.



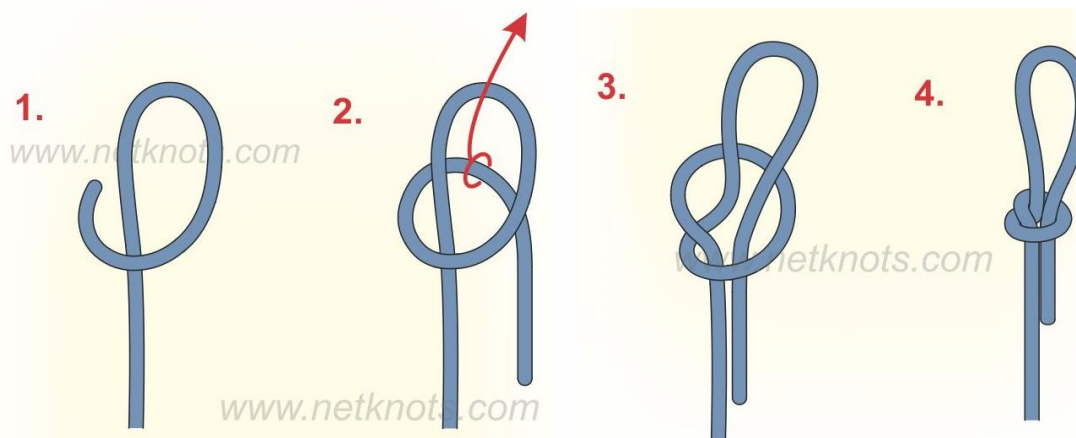
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4. **Decorate your canister.** We used masking tape to decorate ours. You can also use stickers, ribbons, or paint. If you use any sprays, close your canister with its included lid to protect the contents.

5. **Use the included twine to hang your hotel.** Alternatively, place your hotel somewhere at least 3 feet off of the ground, such as a nook in a tree.

- To hang your hotel, tie a loop around each end of the canister with your twine. Keep the loops tight to prevent slipping. We found that slip knots were the easiest to tighten.



6. **Placement is key.** Hang your hotel at least 3 feet of the ground in an area which doesn't receive too much wind, ideally facing south. To help keep water out of your hotel, angle the opening slightly down. You'll know when bees check in, as they'll seal off the tubes after they lay their eggs.



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### 7. Keeping your bees happy and healthy.

- a. It is important to keep bee hotels clean, to prevent pests which could harm larvae. That's why these hotels are designed to last one year. Leave your hotels out overwinter, and dispose of them in the late spring after the eggs have hatched.
- b. Insects, and especially their larvae, are sensitive to toxins. This is why the paper included in your kits is chlorine-free, and any printed paper included is from Inkjet printers, as the toner from laser printers can be toxic to bees.
  - i. The yellow tube from our example craft was for demonstrative purposes, and no colored paper is included in your craft kit.

