# **SUSTAINABILITY**



## **FAST FACTS**



4+ People



40-60 Minutes



\$0-\$10



Low Risk

**Residence Life Residential Education** Sustainability

501 North Highland P.O. Box 210182 Tucson, Arizona 85721-0182 (520) 626-9179 sustainability@life.arizona.edu

# **Recycled Castles in the Sky**

Purpose of Activity: To learn about recycling on campus

### **Objectives/Learning Outcomes:**

By actively participating in this activity, participants will:

- Learn what is recyclable on campus
- Think critically about how to use unconventional building materials

#### Materials Needed:

- Plastic bags (one for each group)
- Gloves (at least one pair for each group)
- Stopwatch
- Ruler or measuring tape

#### **Facilitation Guide:**

- Gather participants and split them into teams of at least two people each. Three is better.
- Inform participants that they will have 20 minutes to walk around campus and gather recyclable materials. Anything they can find is fair game.
- Give each group a pair (or more) of gloves and a plastic bag.
- Tell participants the next phase of the program will start in 20 minutes, so they shouldn't be late or they will be at a disadvantage.
- Inform participants that when they return, they will be given 10 minutes to use the materials they collect to build a large tower. They can use any recyclable materials they collect.
  - The group with the tallest tower wins!
- Dismiss participants to begin collecting items.
- When teams return, go through their bags with them, confirming all of their materials are indeed recyclable. Any items that cannot be recycled cannot be used for the tower.
- When all the teams are ready, give them 10 minutes to build their towers.
  - Towers must be freestanding
  - Towers must be stable enough to be measured, without anything holding it up
- When time is up, measure the height of each tower and determine a winning group.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- What did the collection period look like for you? Where did you go? How did you gather items?
- What was your strategy for building your tower?



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- What are ways unconventional materials are used in construction?
- What do we recycle in the halls?
  - Glass (colored and clear)
  - Paper (newspaper, magazines, printer paper, mail, etc.)
  - Plastic (numbers 1 through 7)
  - Metals (tin and aluminum)
  - In special containers
    - Cardboard (outdoor cages)
    - Rechargeable batteries (tube in indoor recycling center)
    - Ink cartridges (tube in indoor recycling center)
    - Plastic bags (blue bin near vending machines)

#### **Helpful Hints**

• Contact Jill Ramirez at <u>sustainability@life.arizona.edu</u> if you would like small prizes for the winners