



The 5 Rs: “Garbage Ball” Activity in Celebration of Earth Week

Materials needed: lots of plastic grocery bags, duct tape, and creative energy!

Goal: to have fun repurposing plastic bags while sharing ways to use the 5 Rs.

REFUSE-REDUCE-REUSE-REPURPOSE-RECYCLE

Directions:

You can make the “garbage ball” yourself or as a group. Space the participants accordingly. Tell them they will be creating a fun, durable, reusable and recyclable toy out of what some people consider garbage.

Give each person several plastic bags (or have them bring some from home). One person starts creating the ball by scrunching a plastic bag into a ball shape. Place the ball inside another plastic bag and scrunch that one into a ball. This ball is then passed around the group. Each member adds one more plastic bag layer and scrunches it around the ball core until all the plastic bags are used up or until the desired size of ball is made.

Secure the ball shape with duct tape. Three long strips crisscrossing the entire ball work well. The “garbage ball” is now ready for the activity.

Ask the group how they can use it. Add to their ideas. What should be done with the ball once it gets worn? If the ball gets tattered, add new layers, or simply remove the duct tape and recycle the plastic bags.

Suggested activity:

Have the group stand in a circle. The object of this game is to be the last and only remaining player. How is this achieved? By thinking of various creative ways of using the 5 Rs above!

When the garbage ball is tossed (underhand is gentler) to a person, that person has five seconds to say something that is an example of the 5 Rs. Some good answers could be, “repurposing plastic bags into a ball,” “donating clothes,” “refusing a plastic straw,” “composting,” or “reusing glass jars.”

Repeat answers do not count. There are *many* possible answers. If the person cannot answer within the allotted time, they are out of the game. One person should be designated as a referee to keep a fair game.

The player who stays in the longest is the winner and their prize is none other than the awesome “garbage ball”!

Option: those players that become out of the game may act as respectful hecklers to those still playing the game, making it more difficult for them to think or speak.