



# Make Your Own Butterfly Feeder!



## Materials Needed

- Shallow plastic saucer  
*(like a yogurt/salsa lid or plant saucer)*
- Four, 12" pieces of twine/jute/string/yarn/ribbon  
*(they don't all have to be the same type and the length can be adjusted based on what you have!)*
- Hole punch or scissors  
*(or anything you can use to make a hole in the plastic)*
- *Optional: beads, stickers, paint, glitter glue*



## How to Build Your Feeder

1. Punch four holes at the edge of the saucer, spaced equally apart  
*(get a grown-up to help you with this part if you don't have a hole punch at home).*
2. Tie a piece of twine (or another similar option) to each hole.
3. Decorate! Butterflies are attracted to bright, colorful things. Add beads to the twine if you have them and/or make the bottom and sides of the saucer fun with stickers, paint, or other fun things you have at home. Don't decorate the top - butterflies don't want to eat paint or stickers!
4. Tie the 4 pieces of twine together at the top.
5. Hang the feeder in a tree, on your porch, or you can have more fun creating a special holder to stick in your yard.
6. Place a few slices of fruit in the feeder *(even rotting fruit is ok!)*.
7. Watch for butterflies!



## **Additional Learning Resources**

Butterflies typically begin to emerge in Washington State as early as late March and are present through the end of summer or even sometimes into fall, depending on the species.

### **Here are some questions to consider when thinking about butterflies:**

- What role do butterflies play in the food chain/food web?
- How do butterflies eat? Why do they migrate?
- What are the different life cycles of a butterfly?
- How are butterflies and moths different?
- How do butterflies get here?
- Why do butterflies like bright colors?
- What is your ecological footprint and how does it impact butterflies?

### **More information on butterflies in Washington State can be found here:**

- Washington Butterfly Association: [wabutterflyassoc.org](http://wabutterflyassoc.org)
  - Click “Butterfly Gardening” and then “Puget Sound Butterflies and Their Food Plants” for some information on common butterflies in Washington.
- Cascadia Prairie-Oak Partnership: [cascadiaprairieoak.org](http://cascadiaprairieoak.org)
  - Type “Guide to Butterflies” in the search bar (magnifying glass) toward the top right.

Need support with this activity or have additional questions? Contact the Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation Stewardship and Environmental Education team at:

**[parkstewardship@ci.olympia.wa.us](mailto:parkstewardship@ci.olympia.wa.us)**