

## Activity Challenge: Make a Bee Hotel

For this activity, you are going to make a Mason Bee Hotel using materials around your house. Roots and Shoots leader on the National Youth Leadership Council, Maddy Gregg, is going to help! She created *The Thriving Hive Project*.

### 1 To get started:

- ▶ Watch Maddy Gregg's instructional video for help building your Mason Bee Hotel at [bit.ly/rsbeehotel](https://bit.ly/rsbeehotel).

### 2 Try this activity:

#### Materials:

- ▶ A container to build your hive in. A box, can, jar or mug will work.
- ▶ Any tube shaped objects to fill your container. Try bamboo shoots or rolled up magazine pages. Just be sure your tubes have a diameter of 8mm – 1 in.
- ▶ Twine or string to hang your bee hotel.

#### Directions:

1. Clean your container base.
2. If you are creating your own tubes, roll up and secure material to create tubes with a hollow diameter of 8mm – 1 in. You can secure material using tape or small rubber bands.
3. Fill your base with your tubes, making sure you fill it with enough tubes to be tightly packed, and tubes aren't loose or able to move around.
4. Cut two pieces of twine at three feet each. Tie the ends of one piece of twine together to form a loop, then repeat with the other piece of twine so you end up with two loops.
5. Lay your loops on a flat surface and place your hive on top of them so there is a piece of twine on either end of it.
6. Lift your twine loop up and around your container and feed one end through the other, then pull tight. Repeat this with your other piece of twine.
7. Your Mason Bee hotel is now ready to hang! Hand your bee hotel outside in a sunny spot facing south. Watch your hotel to look for new residents!

### Fun Facts



Mason bees are the most common of the solitary bees. They don't stay in a hive, instead they lay their eggs in small tubular holes and seal them with mud.



Mason bees don't build wax comb or produce honey, but they are important pollinators. In fact, mason bees pollinate 20 times more than honeybees!



There are about 140 species of mason bees in North America. They pose little to no threat of stinging since the males do not have a stinger, and females will only sting if trapped or squeezed.