

Pollinator Habitat Activity



Hi!

I'm Mason the mason bee! I'm a solitary bee, which means I don't make honey or live in a hive like honeybees. Since I don't have a queen or honey to protect, I am very gentle and won't sting you unless you hurt me. I live in hollow stems of plants and holes formed by other insects. I'm also happy to nest in paper tubes in bee houses! Can you build a bee house for me and my friends?

What You'll Need:

- Coffee can with a plastic lid
- Natural reeds, paper straws ¼-inch wide, pinecones
- 1-inch diameter washer
- Mesh with ¼-inch opening
- Scissors
- String
- Colored tape, stickers, and other craft supplies for decorating

Step 1: Decorate the outside of the can with colored tape and or stickers.

Step 2: Put the string through the can's hole and tie a knot.

Step 3: Fill the can with pinecones and fill the washer hole with paper straws. Use the pinecones to make the straws straight so there is no need for tape or glue.

Step 4: Cover the coffee can with mesh and secure it in place with the outer rim of the plastic lid.

Step 5: Hang your habitat facing south or southeast and not more than 300 feet from flowering plants.

Thank you for our new house! I can only fly about 300 feet. Please place our bee house near some flowers, so my friends and I will have food. Find out how to take care of your bee house at <https://crownbees.com/>.



Mason Bee (Osmia)



The genus *Osmia* includes some of the most economically important bees in North America, responsible for pollinating many orchards and fruit crops, and for picking up the slack when honeybees fall short. Some species will build nests entirely from mud, thus earning them the common name 'Mason Bees'.