

Hosting a Bat House Building Workshop



Hosting a bat house building workshop is an engaging way to activate your constituents. Bat houses provide many species of local bats a necessary place to roost and raise young. In addition, bat houses provide alternatives to human buildings (reducing human-wildlife conflict) while still encouraging bats to eat pests in the area (flies, moths, and beetles). These houses also encourage research studies (emergence, occupancy, etc.) and backyard wildlife viewing.

RECOMMENDATIONS/OPTIONS:

If possible, combine the bat house building workshop with a meet-and-greet with live bats from a licensed education institution. Otherwise, taxidermy bats, pictures of bats, or video of local bats will suffice. Contact local lumberyards for donations of building supplies. Offer them the opportunity to attend or co-lead the event. Many companies are looking for ways that their employees can volunteer outside the work place. One option is that participants build the houses and leave them to be installed at the host site. Another option is to have participants build and take houses home with them. Either way, it is best to have bat houses ready to build on the day of the event (either buy kits or have them cut 2 weeks in advance).

MARKETING:

- Promote event 8 to 12 weeks prior through social media, eblasts, newsletter, or in person
- If possible, have participants sign up in advance
- Charge a nominal participation fee (\$3-\$10)
- Charge an additional fee to take bat house home (\$25-\$50 depending on cost)
- Remind participants one week prior to the event

BAT HOUSE BUILDING SUPPLIES:

- Purchase bat house kits or cut lumber two weeks in advance
- Box of 1.5 inch galvanized nails or screws
- One pair of protective eyewear for each participant
- One hammer or cordless drill gun for each bat house-building family/participant
- One caulk gun and one tube of outdoor silicone caulk for every four bat houses
- Rags or paper towel for cleanup
- First Aid kit

DAY OF EVENT:

Set out chairs for each participant facing a screen, stage or presentation area. Set up tables with two bat house kits on each, along with corresponding hardware and tools. Cover each table with craft paper to protect it from scratches or caulk. Gather participants in a meeting area and provide natural history information about the bats living locally. Explain why people should want a bat house, the threats to bats and how bat houses can give bats safe, warm, dry places for mom bats to raise their young. Show a bat house that is fully built and explain how bats live it in and proper placement. If available, show a poorly built bat house for comparison. Show live local bats, taxidermy or pictures and videos to excite the participants about the upcoming activity. (30 minutes)



For more information about bats, visit www.batconservation.org
and www.batslive.pwnet.org



ORGANIZATION FOR
BAT CONSERVATION
#SAVETHEBATS

Hosting a Bat House Building Workshop



Invite participants to tables where they will be building bat houses 2 per table while standing. Review safety guidelines. Face the groups at a table with a kit that you will build at the same time. Follow the directions and lead the groups through each step. When caulking, it is best to have a couple of experienced helpers provide this step (it can get messy). Once the bat houses are built, have everyone clean up their tables and return to the seated meeting area. Finish up the event with reminders of best placement and how important it is that their bat houses get put up right away to give bats immediate homes. (30 minutes)

FOLLOW UP:

Email each participant within one week of the event to thank them and remind them about proper placement. Provide the opportunity to register their bat house at www.batconservation.org



For more information about bats, visit www.batconservation.org
and www.batslive.pwnet.org



ORGANIZATION FOR
BAT CONSERVATION
#SAVETHEBATS