

Bug House

Boys love to collect bugs. This bug house will keep the critters in their place. Fun to build and fun to use!

Materials needed:

1. 4 3/4" of 1" x 4" spruce/fir for bottom.
2. 2 - 5" of 1" x 4" spruce/fir for ends.
3. 3" x 3" of 1/4" AC plywood for door.
4. Nylon window screen - 6" x 12" (you can cut this with scissors and it won't scratch the boys!).
5. 2 - eye screws, 12" cord for handle.
6. 16 - 3/4" carpet tacks to secure screen.
7. 4 - 2" sheetrock screws.
8. 1 - 1" sheetrock screw.
9. Phillips screwdrivers and/or electric screwdriver, hammers.



Before the meeting:

1. Cut bottom (4 3/4" x 1" x 4" spruce/fir).
2. Use a band saw to end pieces (use a can lid, 3 1/2" in dia. to draw half circle on each end piece).
3. Drill 1 1/2" hole in one end piece.
4. Cut 3" x 3" x 1/4" AC plywood for door.
5. Drill and counter sink 1/8" hole in corner of door cover.
6. Pre-drill and counter sink two 1/8" holes in each end piece for the two 2" sheetrock screws used to attach ends to bottom board.
7. Pre-drill 1/8" holes in the top of both end pieces (so the boys can easily start the eye screws into these holes and the wood won't split).

Assembly at the meeting:

1. Screw end onto base using 2 - 2" sheetrock screws.
2. Screw second end onto base using 2 - 2" sheetrock screws.
3. Nail screen onto bughouse using 3/4" carpet tacks. Start by nailing the 4 tacks onto the bottom board, then stretch the screen over the top and nail to other side of bottom.
4. Finish nailing the screen around the sides and top of the box.
5. Put the 2 eye screws into the pre-drilled holes at the top of the end pieces.
6. Attach cord for handle.
7. Attach door using 1" sheetrock screw (you may need to have a drill here or an ice pick to get a hole started. The wood may split, a pre-drilled 1/8" hole would be great).
8. Have the boys write their name on the bottom of the bug house.

I have used these as part of a boys' camp activity. The boys spent the next day collecting bugs and then we gave awards for the boys with the most different kinds of bugs, largest bug, most unusual bug, etc.