

Make a Green Roof Activity

Adapted from instructions provided courtesy of the National Building Museum

The “Make a Green Roof” activity is a fun and educational project that can easily be adapted for many groups in many locations. Below are instructions for hosting your own green roof activity.

Age Range

Elementary aged students

Potential Venues

School classrooms, museums, festivals, community centers, etc.

Potential Groups

Girl and Boy Scouts, The Boys and Girls Club, elementary after school programs, community groups, etc.

Display

Posters with photos of green roofs and green roof facts on easels

and/or

Screen with projection of [ASLA Career Discovery powerpoint](#) on continuous loop

Set-Up

Work tables covered with paper, chairs

On each work table:

- Various craft materials: foam shapes, pipe cleaners, tissue paper, construction paper, buttons, etc.
- Glue sticks and glue bottles
- Markers
- Colored masking tape
- Scissors
- Aluminum foil sheets, ~ the size of shoebox lids
- Instruction sheets: [How to Make a Green Roof](#)

One supply table covered with paper

On and next to supply table:

- Shoeboxes or other cardboard boxes with lids (can be stacked on the floor)
- Potting soil (on plastic tarp on floor)
- Grass seed divided into Dixie cups (1/4 inch of seed per cup)
- Plastic forks
- Colored tape
- Instruction sheets: [How to Care for Your Green Roof](#)

Directions

1. Choose a box and lid from the supply table.
2. Move to work tables and securely tape lid upside down to the bottom of the box;
3. Line the inside of box lid with aluminum foil. Glue the foil in place to create a tight fit.
4. Decorate the outside of the box and lid to create a building: house; apartment building; grocery store; fire/police station; community center; church; etc.
5. Bring decorated box to the supply table for potting soil.* Spread the soil evenly on top of the aluminum foil.
6. Sprinkle grass seed from one Dixie cup onto roof soil. Use a fork to “hoe” to evenly distribute the seeds in the soil.
7. Wash hands when done with the project (the soil contains fertilizer).
8. Grab an instruction sheet on *How to Care for Your Green Roof* (remember to water!).

*For easier transporting, potting soil and grass seed can also be placed in plastic bags so participants can finish them at home.