

# How to make a Popsicle Stick Platform Feeder

By Lianna Lopez, GSLA Education Chair

## Materials:

- 26 popsicle sticks
- Glue ( you can use any or a combo of the options: hot glue, Elmer's glue, or wood glue)
- String/twine or yarn
- Scissors
- Bird Seed - black oil sunflower seeds, millet, oats, cracked corn, mealworms, nyjer seed, etc.



## Building The Base:

1. Lay out 10 popsicle sticks side by side. This will be the base.



2. Put glue on one popsicle stick, and lay it across the top of the 10 popsicle sticks.



3. Add glue to another popsicle stick, and lay it across the bottom of the 10 popsicle sticks. These two sticks will hold the base together.



## Building Up The Sides:

1. Add a drop of glue to each end of the two popsicle sticks that you placed across your 10 sticks for the base.



2. Take two more sticks and place them perpendicular to the two sticks that you have added to hold the base together.



3. For the next layer, glue a popsicle stick perpendicular to the two sticks you glued on the base in the previous step. Repeat for the other side.

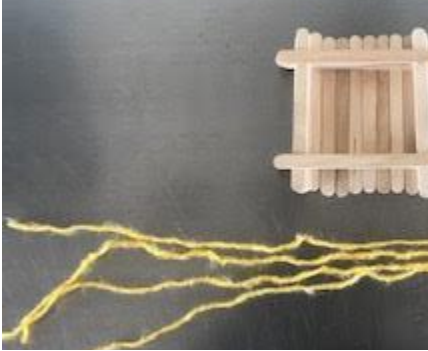


4. Continue until you've used all your popsicle sticks (~14). Let it dry (Dependent on glue used. Elmers takes about 30-60 minutes).



## Attaching The String:

1. Cut 4 pieces of sting that are the same length.



2. Use an extra popsicle stick to help push your string under the top stick. Tie a knot. Continue this process for each corner of the feeder. Try to tie the string at the same spot on all the corners to evenly distribute the weight.



3. Take all four pieces of string and tie in a knot so you can hang your feeder.



## Fill With Birdseed & Enjoy Watching The Birds

1. Start by filling your feeder only half full to test its capabilities depending on the weather (wind/rain/snow).



2. Use birdseed that you know your local birds will enjoy. To learn about which is best for birds in your area check out [Project Feederwatch's website](#)
3. Hang your feeder in a tree or shrub that is several feet off the ground.
4. It may take a day or two for the birds to find your feeder, but once they do, be ready with a pair of binoculars and a bird guide to learn who they are!



5. Every few days check the level of seed in your feeder.
6. If your feeder is popular, clean it once a week, otherwise you can wait every two weeks to clean it. (See below for instructions on how to clean your feeder.)

## Keeping Your Feeder Clean

1. Rake up any discarded seed hulls and throw them away to prevent other birds and your pets from getting sick.
2. If your feeder is very popular and gets lots of visitors, remove any old seed.
3. Make a mild bleach solution - 9 parts bleach to 1 part water. (Ask an adult for help).
4. Spray your feeder with the solution, and let it air dry for at least 24 hrs.
5. Then refill with seeds and put it back out for the birds.