



Plastic grocery bags made from polyethylene(a derivative of petroleum) proliferate our city and the world. These bags line our streets, trees, parks, and end up in our oceans, lining marine animal stomachs. According to the United Nations Environmental Programme report, Marine Litter: A Global Challenge, these bags are one of the top ten worst polluters our contemporary world has known.

The Bags for the People bag making workshops address the plastic bag problem in a fun, creative, and hands on way. We educate about the negative impact of plastic bags, but more importantly, the positive impact of making and using reusable bags out of repurposed materials such as old clothes and sheets. We will teach each student the valuable skill of sewing allowing them to sew their own bag during the workshop and showing them that they have the skills and “know-how” to make a difference.

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### 3 Day K - 12 Program Structure

Bags for the People representatives travel to schools and community spaces to lead workshops with students ranging in age groups from grades K to 12. Bags for the People provides all materials and equipment necessary for a successful workshop; sewing machines, scissors, thread, and fabric. We encourage students to donate their old fabric or clothing as well, because of the intrinsic value this brings to re-purposing personal materials to construct the bags.

During our 3 day workshop, we will also be working with the student's general community, creating a larger sense of awareness and responsibility. On day 1, the workshop begins with an explanation of why we are doing what we are doing, discussing the environmental impact of plastic bags. We explore the solution of making reusable, cloth bags and how this is a positive reaction to the negative impact our "throw away" culture has had on the environment. We then show examples of bags we have already made and give a brief tutorial on the construction process, as well as an introduction to sewing on a machine. We then guide the students through the bag making process as they create their own reusable bags, making sure each student or child is able to make their own bag.

On day 2 we will continue the positive support and guidance while spending time making a surplus of bags to be given out on day 3.

On day 3 we will coordinate with a local business or Greenmarket where plastic bags are an issue. We will then walk to the establishment and work with the owner/farmer/employees by engaging the public through the giving out of the free reusable bags that the students/children have made.

The Bags for the People 3 day bag making workshop will teach students the positive and creative action they can take to fight the proliferation of plastic bag pollution within their own community and how they can work together to make a greater impact. We will teach them to sew reusable bags out of repurposed materials, have them make bags for their community, and hand out their bags with them at local community establishment.