

Desert Sky Montessori School



**COMMUNITY INNOVATION FUND PROJECT**



an environmental center program 

The Desert Sky Montessori School students worked to hand make three hundred cloth napkins to be used on-campus when eating to reduce the waste of single use napkins.



Using up-cycled and second-hand fabrics, borrowed sewing machines, and purchased thread, students designed and crafted the napkins with the help of teachers and volunteers. The school often hosts events including meals, and saw the opportunity to divert waste from the landfill by sewing napkins that will be reused again and again.

Due to COVID-19, the school's in-person meal events have been canceled since 2019, but the school looks forward to their first big event this fall for Harvest Fest. If COVID-19 guidelines allow, "children sell pumpkins, corn stalks, play harvest themed games and eat/drink" says Darlene Weaver, a Parent Volunteer at the school.



This initiative will save hundreds of single use napkins from ending up at the Knott Landfill with each event the school hosts!



The goal of the Recycling Hut is to introduce waste reduction concepts to our children, with an emphasis on "reusing" and "recycling", and to actually reduce waste.



From time to time, the items collected will change, depending on community needs and our ability to obtain sponsorship for shipping costs. Currently accepted materials include:

- Crayon bits
- Colored pencil nubs
- Denim not suitable for donation
- Teva Sandals and flip-flops
- Padded mailing envelopes
- Pak Techs



The ultimate goal is to collect items normally discarded that can be repurposed or recycled right here in Central Oregon. For example, crayon bits are donated to a local artist who needs about 50 pounds per year and padded mailing envelopes are donated to a local business owner to be reused.