

# RECYCLED T-SHIRT BOOK BAG

## AGES

Children 8+ years

Teens/tweens

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Do you have a beloved old t-shirt that is too small or worn? Repurpose it into a bookbag for all your library materials! Ask participants to bring their own t-shirts, but be sure to have some extras on hand. In the spirit of reuse, solicit donations from staff, patrons, or local businesses rather than buying new t-shirts. Suggested runtime: 45 min.

## MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials:

- T-shirts (one per participant)
- Scissors (sharp enough to cut fabric)
- Rulers
- Pencils (optional)

Before the program, set up a demonstration table at the front of the room and table space for each participant. Lay scissors, pencils, and rulers on each table. Once every participant has their t-shirt in front of them, lead them through step-by-step.

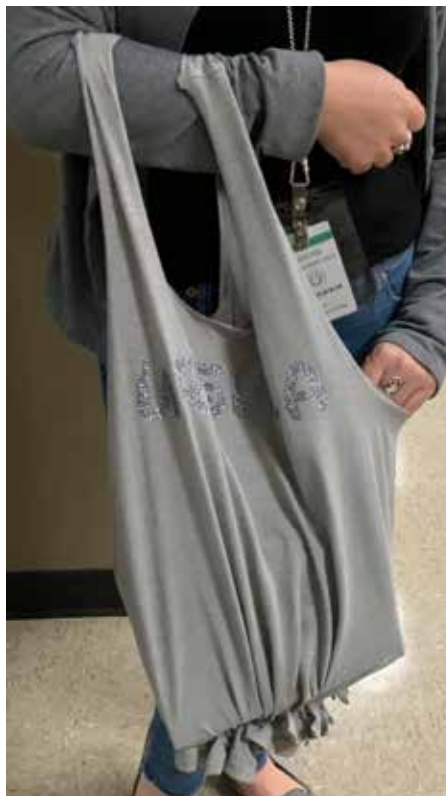


Image source: Sidnie Srader of Jones Public Library, Dayton, TX.

## TIP:

Don't forget to test your scissors to make sure they're sharp enough to cut fabric. You might also consider asking participants to bring fabric scissors from home if they have them.

## ADAPTATION:

Be sure to have adaptive or dual control scissors on hand.



Image source: Sidnie Srader of Jones Public Library, Dayton, TX.

## CRAFT | LOW COST

1. Cut the arm holes out from the inside of the arm seam
2. Cut the neckline out by following the seam. You can make the hole small by sticking to the seam, or measure about an inch out from the seam and cut. If you use a pencil to measure make sure to turn the t-shirt inside out so you don't see the pencil markings.
3. If you haven't already, turn the t-shirt inside out.
4. Measure three inches from the bottom of the ruler and trace up with the pencil
5. Make the same marks all the way across the shirt. Use the width of the ruler for the width of the strips
6. Cut the pencil markings up to the three inch mark. Don't forget to cut the seams!
7. You can have the fringe on the outside for decoration or on the inside for a smooth bottom. If you want the fringe on the outside, turn your shirt right side out at this point.
8. Knot each set of strips together tightly.
9. Once you've knotted all the way across, the book bag is ready to use!

**UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS**

Each participant will need half a table. Solo-librarian friendly. For younger children, volunteers or parents will need to help tying knots.

**TIP:**

You can also link this craft to the book *I Had a Favorite Dress* (2011) by Bonnie Ashburn and Julia Denos.