

HOLD A SPONSORED RUBY ROBIN HUNT

This is an activity that can be enjoyed by any age group and you can easily increase or decrease the difficulty of your hunt to suit hunters. Whether you are planning a party for children or a mix of ages, you'll need to plan the details and select the prizes for your robins. For bigger hunts, you may need to coordinate volunteers.



For your robins you could either make printed cut outs of our Ruby Robin, or substitute robins with candy canes or chocolate coins and use little ruby robin signs to show their locations. Cardboard ones can be used on their own with notes about their prize stuck to the back – or you could attach small bags with the prizes inside.

Get hunters to raise funds by getting sponsors. They could ask for a donation per robin they find or extra money if they find special coloured robins. Make sure to download and distribute our sponsorship forms.

Larger open hunts could include an entry fee for hunters. Combine this with a cake and refreshments stall and tombola to raise even more funds. Plan this right and, after you cover all your costs, you should have a surplus to donate to SBS to help robins and other small birds.

Decide on the time and date The first thing you need to do is decide on the date and time you want to have your Ruby Robin hunt.

Hide Robins according to the age of your guests Hunts are perfect for any age group, however, it's a good idea to keep the age of your guests in mind. Younger children will need the robins to be hidden in places they can easily find. For older guests, you don't have to worry as much about your hiding location. Consider hiding the robins in trees, bushes, under or inside objects, and so on.

Choose your hunt location(s) You may want to centralize your hunt in one location, or you may want to plan a few separate courses. Separate courses can be especially useful when you have a wide age range of hunters. This way you can divide age groups by location.

Level the playing field for differing age groups When you have a wide range of age groups taking part in the same hunt, it might help to use strategies to keep things fair. For example, you might give younger age groups a head start or instruct older children to not collect robins that are in plain sight.

Inspect your hunting grounds There may be hazards, like holes or dangerous rubbish that can negatively impact your hunt. Be sure you thoroughly walk the area before you start.

Be prepared for number of hunters Open robin hunts can have a large range of participants. It's better to be prepared with extra than to have anyone disappointed by a scant robin hunt. If you have a list of participants, you might predict how many may bring additional guests, and plan extra robins for these potential participants just in case. How many robins you plan per hunter is completely up to your preference and prize range.

Make a list or map of the hiding places This will prevent you from losing robins in your garden or the park, but this will also help you give hints if hunters are having difficulty. Sometimes hiding spots you might think obvious are missed. A list will also help you to make sure your robins are spread across the hunting area so that more kids have a chance to find them.

Prizes

Make robin bags and fill them with sweets Small sweets that fit inside your robins are a common prize.

Marbles, bouncy balls, collector cards At your local pound shop or online you may be able to find large packages of small figurines, stickers, temporary tattoos, or other toys that fit inside the robins (or attach to the back of the cut outs). Try to select packages of prizes that come in a wide variety. If all your robins have the same item, children may be disappointed they don't have a unique prize.

Bigger prizes Choose special prizes for special robins. Pick items to suit your known hunters – or advertise prizes as a way to attract paying entrants.

Don't forget to ask local shops or companies as they may donate prizes for free in exchange for advertising if you explain it is for charity.

Scale your prizes according to difficulty You may have a few robins that are especially well hidden on your hunt course with a special prize to be claimed written on the back.

Increase competition with special robins You could hide some special robins that look different from the rest, like "jewelled robins" or "golden robins." For example the hunter with the most special robins gets a prize.

Make your hunt clue based An optional variation is a scavenger hunt with clues. Find out more on the website: