



Alabama - Designing great bins to reduce litter in the creek

What was your goal and what did you achieve?

My school is next to a creek and lots of the litter from our school is going into the creek and killing wildlife so I thought if our school bins looked a lot more attractive and smell better and are cleaned up a bit people would use them more often and there will be less litter in the creek.

At first I thought we could paint the bins to clean them up a bit but that was just going to be a lot harder and cost too much money, so I looked online for a place where they could print out stickers for you and so you can design your sticker and then they'll print it out for you and then you can put it on the bin and I thought that was a good solution.

But the problem was that the school had spent all the money so we didn't have enough money to do it, so I thought we could fundraise a bit but my student council coordinator said no we can't do it, so I thought that maybe next year we could try and fundraise.

I talked to some of my friends about it and asked them if it was a good idea, or what I should do or if they would help me and they said yeah we'll help you.

So then I went to my Science teacher who is also our student council coordinator, and I talked to her about it and she told me that I needed to write up a list of all the things we would need and then come back to her and we'll talk about it, so I did that and then after I did that she told me I needed to come to a Student Council meeting which I haven't been able to do yet because she didn't really explain to me.

Next steps?

My next steps are to go to the Student Council and tell them what my idea is and what we could do and then hopefully we could get it going this term and sort of finish it in the holidays or next term and because I also talked to KidsZone or our OSHC and they said they would be happy to help so it may be in the holiday program that some of their kids will

have a drawing competition so the picture has to be to do with the environment so probably we'll choose five bin stickers to go on the bins and from varying ages so everyone gets a turn.

Have you had any challenges?

Probably the fact that the school budget had closed so we didn't have any money to actually do it. If I were allowed to fundraising and work with the community to do that, that would have been good but it just didn't happen. So if I probably went in Term one or Term two it would have gone through in the budget, but I didn't know and I didn't come up with the idea until Term 3.

What did you enjoy most?

Coming up with the idea and trying to figure out a solution for all the litter I think was a big success because I really I didn't know how I could help the school with that problem. I thought of that painting idea and then I went further with it and I think that was good.

Coming up with the designs - that was really fun.

Your advice to other students?

Keep trying and trying because if you stop then it's never going to happen, so if you keep trying it will eventually happen because everyone gets roadblocks.

This case study was transcribed from an interview. These are Alabama's words and opinions.