DIY Snow Gauge

02/10/2025

Although winter can be cold and dark, it is also a great season to explore and engage with nature in new ways! A fun and easy way to do this is by building your own snow gauge! With a paint stirrer and a few materials, you can measure snowfall and connect with the science of snow right in your backyard.

What You'll Need:

- A wooden paint stirrer or wooden dowel
- A ruler or measuring tape
- Permanent marker
- Optional: colorful decorations like stickers, paint, or tape

Steps to Create Your Snow Gauge:

1. **Prepare the Paint Stirrer**: If you'd like, paint or seal your stirrer to make it weatherproof and more durable. Let it dry completely before proceeding.
2. **Mark the Measurements**: Using a ruler or measuring tape, mark increments in inches or centimeters along the stirrer. Start from the bottom (0) and work your way up, numbering each line with a permanent marker.
3. **Decorate**: Add some personality! Use markers, stickers, paint, or colorful tape to make your snow gauge unique.
4. **Set It Up**: Choose an open area, away from roofs, trees, or other structures that might interfere with snow accumulation. Push the paint stirrer into the ground so that it stands upright, with all measurements visible. If the ground is frozen, consider using a small container of packed snow or a weighted base to hold the stirrer upright.

Using Your Snow Gauge:

After each snowfall, check your snow gauge to see how much snow has accumulated. Record the measurements in a snow journal to track snowfall over time. You can also compare your readings with local weather reports to see how accurate they are!

This activity is more than just fun—it's an opportunity to learn about weather patterns, precipitation, and how winter conditions impact the environment. Snow gauges are a great project for kids and adults alike!


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{ prevControl.setAttribute('aria-label', 'Previous'); });
document.querySelectorAll('.carousel-control[data-
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{ nextControl.setAttribute('aria-label', 'Next'); });
document.addEventListener('DOMContentLoaded',
function() { // Query all images within the
fourColumnCarousel inside embed-feed const
images = document.querySelectorAll('.embed-
feed .fourColumnCarousel .img-fluid'); images.forEach(img
=> { // If the image alt attribute is empty or missing,
set it to "Article thumbnail" if (!img.getAttribute('alt') ||
img.getAttribute('alt').trim() === '') { img.setAttribute('alt',
"Article thumbnail"); } }); }); })(); // Closes the IIFE
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Location, Hours & Contact

Physical & Mailing Address
1258 Center Drive
Park City, Utah 84098

EcoCenter Hours
Wednesday – Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm

Email
swanerecocenter@usu.edu

Phone

435-649-1767

Directions, Parking, & Transit View Staff Directory

- Swaner EcoCenter Facebook page
- Swaner EcoCenter Instagram page

Events

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<script type="text/javascript" src="//www.trumba.com/
scripts/spuds.js"></script> <script type="text/javascript">
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"SpudConfig2" , teaserBase : "https://extension.usu.edu/
swaner/calendar" }); </script>
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View Full Swaner Preserve & EcoCenter Calendar