

Southern California Hiking Heroes
Earth Day Ukraine Awareness Event

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Preparation Log

The idea of an awareness event or fundraiser originated from a Hiking Heroes meeting. The concept wouldn't begin to become a reality until a bit later, when Balboa Park's Earth Day fair would be brought up in a meeting of our own.

Some immediate contenders for possible things we could sell were soaps and tote bags. There were other candidates, like tiny flowerpots with the Ukraine national flower planted in them, or Rainbow Looms. In the end, scented soaps and candles as well as reusable eco-friendly tote bags were the winners of the decision.

At first, we were cautious that we might have to scrap one of our initial ideas for something else due to an unforeseen issue, so we created several backup plans. Fortunately, we wouldn't need these as everything went smoothly except for a few minor hiccups.

Once the parents ordered the supplies for scented soaps and candles (there is no construction needed in tote bags), we got to work. Helen divided us into two different groups. One would make soaps and candles, while the other would work on the poster(s) that would be displayed at the fair.

Around a fourth of the creation process for the soaps and candles, Helen and Mia concluded that there were too few supplies for the soaps, let alone the candles. It was hypothesized we might have to scrap the candles idea. However, purchase of additional supplies miraculously arrived earlier than expected, and production of soaps and candles were able to resume.

In terms of the poster, a general idea of how to display the information was established, and the poster group got to work. The poster centered around helping Ukraine, as later discussion and analysis would go on to have the sales pitch conducted by the hikers themselves.

A last-minute frantic skedaddle was caused by the suspicion that there wouldn't be enough soaps to sell at the Earth Day fair. The Earth Day was known for having up to 5,000 visitors, and we had only prepared a meager supply of around a hundred. In order to fix this problem, the parents pulled numerous all-nighters and increased our count of soaps from a hundred to 400.

General preparations finished on April 22nd, and both the products and the posters were completed on April 23rd, the day before the fair.

Needless to say, the fair went well, and the Southern California division of Hiking Heroes managed to earn almost \$1000 in profit. That's a job well done.

