

This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. Every year, the last Wednesday of March is National Manatee Awareness Day. Manatees are aquatic mammals that are actually herbivores (plant-eaters). Known as "sea cows", they spend up to 8 hours a day munching on seagrasses. Imagine eating only seagrass and weighing anywhere from 1,000-3,500 pounds. I wonder why they do not sink. The only real enemy of the Manatees are humans. Let's help to bring awareness to this "threatened" species by making a fun game of "Feed the manatee"!



1-Staple one end of a toilet paper roll about 3/4 inch in from the end. Cut the back end so it is round like a flipper. You can color the roll gray like the manatee or wrap gray paper around the roll. You can cut a flipper out of paper and stuff it with a bit with cotton ball or paper. Add it to the end of the roll. Cut two circles for the head of the manatee, twice as large as the paper roll circle. The pieces are all two pieces, to make it thicker and sturdier. Draw the end of the roll inside the larger circle, leaving an edge all around. Cut out the inner circle (with lines like a pizza) just to meet the line of the smaller circle. Place the head on the roll and glue or tape the tabs inside the roll. You will have a large opening in the end. Add some eyes and a mouth if you like.

2-Cut some small discs the size of a penny or dime from a heavier cardboard, and color green for seagrass. Gather some friends or family and play a game of "Feed the Manatee" Use the edge of a coin to press down on the edge of the disc and try to pop it into the mouth of the Manatee.

Check online @ <https://www.visitmanateelagoon.com/manatee-cam> For a live view of Manatees in the water.



Be kind and save the manatees!

Ms. Susan