



Trashmagination Podcast 4: Creative Reuse of Trophies

Welcome to Trashmagination, a podcast about reimagining trash. I'm Carla Brown.

I'll answer a **Listener Question** from my friend Mary Burnette - "Have you got a way to recycle sports trophies?"

I recommend finding ways to reuse the trophies as trophies. Call a local trophy shop to see if they will take the trophies.

If you cannot find a local shop, there is a program called that National Trophy Recycling program where you can mail trophies if they are generally in good shape. It's located in Madison, Wisconsin, so you would need to pay for shipping if you don't live there. You can peel off the engraved plate from the trophy and keep that part.

You might be able to bring the trophies back to the organization which gave them to your child, such as your local ice rink or sports association – particularly if the trophies are not customized with a person's name – which is the case for my daughter's hockey trophies.

Now if you really want to use the trophies for craft activities, there are lots of ideas on Pinterest. I'll put links in the show notes. With all of these ideas, the first step is to unscrew the trophies – there is usually a screw on the bottom. Here are a bunch of ideas which I put in the Trashmagination Pinterest account in a pinboard called Trophies:

- Attach the figurines from the trophies to corks to make cool wine cork decorations.
- Make cupcake or dessert stands, complete with a cool figurine on the top.
- Make a coat rack by attaching a series of the figurines to wood.
- Make Christmas tree ornaments from the figurines. You can spray paint or hand paint them in cool colors.
- If the trophy is shaped like a cup, I saw someone made small planters.
- Make a photo stand by attaching a spring to the trophy base. This can be painted a color to match your décor.
- Make fun place card settings for a fancy dinner table.

Next, here's a shout-out to an organization I admire called the Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse - a creative reuse center where you can get secondhand craft supplies for much reduced cost. I visited was super impressed. They take trophies which people can then reuse for their own awards ceremonies. They also offer a trophy decorating workshop. If you have a creative reuse center near you, you could call to see if they take the trophies as well.

Finally, for a Trashmagination project from a few years ago, I designed trophies from plastic caps. We as parents and coaches can make trophies for our kids from recycled materials, thus reducing the need to purchase trophies at all. There are really creative trophy designs on Pinterest, customized to every kind of event – even baby showers. You can check out my plastic cap trophies – made from yellow plastic caps – in the show notes.

I would love to answer your question about creative reuse. Just email your question to trashmagination@gmail.com.

Until next time – May you see your trash as just another source of art in your life.

1. Cork decorations – Décor Adventures - <http://www.decoradventures.com/how-to-make-trophy-bottle-tops/>
2. Dessert Stands - <http://justsomethingimade.com/2012/02/repurposed-trophies-cupcake-stands/>
3. Fat Karate-Ka – ornaments - <http://www.fat-karate-ka.com/suicidal-trophies-and-christmas-ornaments/>
4. Design Sponge - <http://www.designsponge.com/2011/05/diy-project-vintage-trophy-coat-rack.html> - Coat Rack
5. Trophy Bases – <http://www.mysalvagedtreasures.com/2015/08/trophy-bases-rusty-springs-and.html>
6. Placecard Settings - <http://jenniferrizzo.com/2013/12/upcycling-old-trophies-to-make-place-card-settings.html>
7. National Trophy Recycling program - <https://www.facebook.com/NationwideTrophyRecyclingProgram/>
8. Pittsburgh Center for Creative Reuse - <http://pccr.org/programs/remaker-playshops/trophies/>
9. Plastic Cap Trophies - <http://trashmagination.com/plastic-cap-trophies/>