



# FORAGER BEES -POLLEN GATHERING RACE

## FUN FACT

Bees are responsible for pollinating all the almonds in California, the cranberries in Maine, and the oranges in Florida. Without healthy bees, think how much fruit and nuts we would be without!



This bee is absolutely full of pollen she has collected in her "saddlebags."



When bees fly to a flower, they are in search of a sweet treat called nectar. While sipping the nectar, pollen is sticking to their hairy legs and body. When they fly to other flowers, the bee leaves pollen from the flowers she has visited. This is pollination. Pollination is a way plants make new plants and is important for life on earth. Bees pollinate a third of the food we eat.

Pollen is also a source of food for the bees who are gathering it. In addition to it sticking to their hairy bodies, they pack some of it into little pockets on their legs and take it back to the hive.

In this game, players are forager bees bringing pollen back to the hive.

Use balls of socks as the pollen. Use chairs as flowers. Start with two chairs. One for each person in the first race.

Find a space where you can run a little distance. One end of the open space, is the start/finish line. It is also the entrance to the hive.

Put the chair flowers as far away as the space allows, a few feet from each other facing the direction of the hive entrance. Put the same amount of pollen on each chair.

Forager Bee players are in place near the entrance to the hive.

The starter announces "Forager Bees!" This is analogous to, "On your Mark, get ready" . The players step to the entrance of the hive/ starting line and bend to running position. The starter yells "Go!" And the forager bee players run as fast as they can to the chair/ flower.

Players collect as much pollen as possible by stuffing it under their armpits and returning

to the hive as fast as they can.

The one who gets back first without dropping any pollen wins.

Switch players if you want.

If you have room, try it with two chair/flowers. Place the chair/ flowers apart from each other if you can. Make sure both chair/ flowers have pollen/balls of socks on them. The players run to their first flower and pick up as much pollen as possible. With the pollen safe under their arms, the forager bees run to the second flower, and drop half their pollen onto the flower. Next they pick up as much new pollen from the flower as possible before returning swiftly to the hive.

In this version, the forager bee has pollinated the second flower.