

Alternatives to balloon releases

There are many types of events that could easily replace balloon releases and not cause harm to our environment.

Many marine species, including turtles and dolphins, accidentally eat balloons because they think they are food. This blocks their stomach and can cause them to die. Animals also get entangled in balloons. This is really simple to stop – just don't release balloons. There are lots of events to choose from and we've put together some ideas here to help you.



A razorbill caught in a balloon

We're not against balloons – as long as they are not released to be another bit of litter in the environment. So if you've already bought balloons, how about doing these events instead?



Don't let go!

- ★ Prize balloon popping – Hide a few prizes inside air filled balloons. Release balloons indoors and let everyone pop them to find the prizes. Also works well with choosing raffle ticket winners.
- ★ Balloon relay – Each member of a team has to run a short distance and sit on a balloon to pop it before running back to tag the next member of the team. The first team to pop all their balloons wins!
- ★ Balloon sculpture – Use your balloons to make an unusual but fun sculpture.
- ★ Balloon art – Hire a balloon artist to create balloon animals.
- ★ Guess the number of balloons – Fill a car with balloons and the correct guess gets a prize (could you get the local car dealer to donate the car as a prize?).

Trying to raise lots money without spending much? Try these events instead:

- ★ Sponsored events – All it costs you is a sponsorship form! Find some willing individuals to do sponsored running, walking, swimming, pogo jumping... whatever you like!
- ★ Auction – Get people and local companies to donate prizes and hold an auction to raise money for your cause.
- ★ Virtual balloon release – They do exist! You can sponsor balloons, set them off from a precise location and track them online to see where they end up. Balloons travelling the world with no harm to the environment – great!
- ★ Music concert – Support new local bands and host a night of musical entertainment. Tickets for the concert all go to your cause and musicians get a great chance to showcase their talent.
- ★ Colour code yourself – Dress in green / blue / neon pink and give money to charity too.

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Caring for our seas, shores and wildlife - now and for future generations.

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Balloons are often released to commemorate or raise awareness –why not try these ideas instead:

- ★ Lighting candles
- ★ Planting trees or flowers

Need an event for kids?

- ★ Paper plane competition (also works for adults – brings out the competitive side!). Prize for the plane that travels the furthest.
- ★ Plant a tree to mark a class leaving school
- ★ Or get all the children of the school year to make a clay or paint collage of their handprints – a beautiful, personal memento of the year.
- ★ Easter egg or treasure hunt.



And for something totally different...



Release the cow! Mark out squares in a plot of land and sell tickets for each numbered square. Release a cow into the field and the first square to be hit by a cow pat wins

- ★ Organise a kite fly. Looks spectacular and is cheap and fun to organise.



Finally – if you have any good ideas please let us know!



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