

# Spaghetti Osprey Tall Towers

Learn About Osprey Nesting Towers with the  
Chesapeake Bay



The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States and is home to more than 3,700 species of plants and animals. Here, saltwater and freshwater mix to support a variety of habitats and diverse wildlife. The Bay connects a vast watershed spanning 64,000 square miles.

## Background:

Osprey, also known as the "fish hawk", are large birds of prey that feed on fish and are found worldwide. There are 4 subspecies, with the North American Osprey being the subspecies found in the United States. They can grow to nearly 2 feet tall with a 6-foot wingspan!

Osprey build their nests high off the ground near, and sometimes directly above, large bodies of water. This gives them a good view of where they will be hunting. Nests are mainly made from large sticks and soft grasses. Osprey may use man-made platforms as a base for their nests. Many parks build and install these platforms to provide safe nesting locations for the Osprey that inhabit their area. [Click here to get a live look at a pair of Osprey nesting on their platform on the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland.](#)

Now get ready to build your very own Osprey nesting tower!



## Materials:

- 20 pieces of spaghetti
- 15 mini marshmallows
- 1 yard of masking tape
- 1 yard of string



## Procedure:

- Use all materials to build the tallest freestanding platform structure you can.
  - You may time yourself to see how long your build takes.
  - The final structure should be able to stand on its own for at least 10 seconds.
  - Remember to have something at the top acting as a platform. You may even want to try balancing a small stuffed animal on top to see if it will hold!

