

Title: Retrieve, Race, Release

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Abstract: This poster represents a service-learning project that was done for our conservation biology class. Our main goal is to educate the public about the negative impacts of turtle derbies. We did this by using educational materials to raise awareness about turtle races and the impact of painting them with toxic substances before releasing them into a habitat that is not their natural one. We did not seek out to prohibit or stop the races as that would cause people to shut down and not listen as well, we wanted to raise awareness about the risks associated with these dangerous compounds and the release processes as well as proper housing requirements for the turtles before the races. We hope to reach all ages and educate them on better turtle handling practices by handing out pamphlets and setting up a booth to allow people to learn. We also hope to see a positive change in how box turtle derbies are performed. We have created posters, pamphlets, and games to get the public to be more active in learning. The outcome we wish to see is that we inspire one person who will then tell their family and friends about the importance of keeping the box turtles in a safe environment as well as releasing them into a safe environment.