

Y-GUIDES CRAFTS

Crafts are a traditional part of the Y-Guides. We suggest that a tribe plan a craft at least every other meeting. Crafts serve a valuable purpose.

For the child to:

- Learn to use their hands to make things.
- Make something to take home to show to others or display in room.
- Spend time with and make something jointly with dad.

For the dad to:

- Work with and teach son/daughter.
- Have a learning experience.
- Improve skills in various areas.

CRAFT IDEAS

Advance preparation is key to a successful craft project for your meeting. Learn to utilize the craft at each meeting as a quick, concise and completed portion of your meeting. Do not rely on kits which need to be finished at home.

Helpful suggestions:

- Have all materials necessary for projects.
- Have a sample. Make one at home in advance of meeting; this will give you an idea of the time involved.
- Arrange distribution and method in detail.
- Plan for conduct control in craft time.
- Have all materials close at hand to permit quick start.
- Don't be content with a poorly organized and conducted craft period.

FIRST YEAR CRAFTS

Perhaps the key words for crafts on the first year level are Keep It Simple. Remember, you want to have a craft that the Little Brave/Princess can do, or almost do, by himself/herself. It should be one that he/she can complete in a short period of time. Attention span is not very long at this age.

Nature Crayon Rubbing

Materials: fine fabric such as silk, leaves of favorite tree, or other traceable object, hot iron and damp cloth, box of crayons.

Instructions: Place leaf under fabric and trace directly on fabric using crayons; (be sure leaf is vein side up). After tracing is completed, place damp cloth over fabric, and press with hot iron. Father and child should work as a team.

Clothespin Wrestlers

Materials: 2 clothespins and 1 fat rubberband

Instructions: Father and child should decorate each of the clothespins a different color with the meanest looking faces they can draw. Round wooden clothespins work best. Look carefully at the illustration, and hook the rubberband around both clothespins as shown.

How to play: Wind up the wrestlers - not too tightly and carefully put them down. Now quickly let go. For a few seconds the wrestlers will knock each other all over the place, but in the end, one wrestler will land on top of the other and be the winner. Sometimes neither wrestler will win. Father can challenge child to wrestling matches!

Ankle Bells

Materials: one 2"-7" Naugahyde piece, one 18" Raw hide lace, 3 metal bells, paper hole puncher

Instructions: With dad's help, each child can punch holes with puncher, and lace bells.

Hummer Button

Materials: wooden disc or large button (2" in diameter), heavy string, wooden handles

Instructions: Father and child should drill 2 holes in disc, if not using button, and thread heavy string through holes, then fasten each end to wooden handles. Pull back and forth to start disc humming.

Bookmark

Materials: 1 1/2"x 10" piece of leather, cloth strips, paint or leather tools

Instructions: Together, father and child draw design on surface of material. They then paint design that harmonizes with the space involved. Leather can be tooled. Make the design personal, identifying something of personal meaning to the father and son/daughter.

Christmas Tree

Materials: heavy green paper, white glue, cotton balls, confetti or sequins, colored beads

Instructions: Together, dad and child should make cone out of heavy paper. Using glue, cover outer surface with cotton balls. Dab cotton with white glue, then sprinkle tree with colored confetti or sequins. Glue colored beads here and there for final touch.

SECOND YEAR CRAFTS

Selecting crafts for the second year Guide/Princess is both challenging and rewarding. Three key words are Simplicity, Interesting and Inexpensive. The craft for this age level should be simple enough for kids to complete, yet a bit more challenging than last year. Dads continue to make all crafts with their children, hopefully with a bit less instruction. It is necessary to use your imagination in selecting a craft; without this, you will have a dull craft and a restless group. Be certain that the craft does not cost an excessive amount of money.

A "Glue'em - Build'em" Free-For-All

Materials: as many pieces, sizes and shapes of wood as possible, (long, short, thin, fat, blocks, etc., etc.), hammers and nails, white glue.

Instructions: Turn the Braves/Princesses loose to build and construct anything their creative minds can think of (towers, bridges, etc.) Big Braves can help, too. After 10 to 15 minutes or so, have each child explain what he/she has built. Award prizes for best, tallest, oddest, etc.

Silhouette

Materials: black and white construction paper (11" x 14" size), white chalk, white glue, single light source, scissors

Instructions: Use white chalk to trace on black paper around shadow of Little Brave/Princess. Cut silhouette out with scissors. With white glue, stick silhouette to a sheet of white paper (glue with chalk side down). Little Braves/Princesses can also draw silhouette of Big Brave Frame and hang silhouettes on the wall.

God's Eye

The eye of the Great Spirit or God's Eye is popular with the New Mexico Indians

Materials: 2 twigs 1/4" diameter, 6" long, 5 yards thick, brightly-colored yarn (only three colors needed)

Instructions: Each father/child team ties yarn together to make one piece, then ties twigs together to form a cross. Develop eye by stringing yarn from one branch of the cross to the next. Start in the center and work outward in a clock-wise direction. Always go over top side of twig to top of next, around, and onto next twig (see diagram) When all yarn is used, tie end to twig.

Pebble People

Materials: appropriately shaped smooth stones from creek bed, acrylic or enamel paints and brushes, scrap felt, yarn, string, beads and seeds

Instructions: Allow Little Braves/Princesses to paint faces on stones. Dads should assist in gluing on felt, yarn, string, beads and/or seeds to enhance facial features.

Christmas Wrapping Paper

This process makes beautiful "free form" designs on both pieces of paper being used.

Materials: white butcher paper, 3 or more 40" cotton strings, poster paints

Instructions: Father and child should use two sheets of paper at once. Place one sheet on the floor. Dribble a cotton string which has been dipped in poster paint, over the sheet of paper. Place a second sheet of paper on top of the string and paper. Gently pull the string out holding the papers together. Use up to three colors.

How To Build A Kite

The general objective in building any kite is to obtain the largest exposed surface and the lightest weight possible in combination with the greatest strength, all of which add up to maximum pulling power. Kites of moderate size are most likely to work well and are easy to assemble. The sticks for them are not too difficult to find, paper and string need not be of special strength, and construction time is reasonable.

Tying the Joints: You should not drive nails or tacks through the sticks as they will split under pressure. In smaller kites, tying will hold any stick crossing or joint very well. Tying will generally suffice for larger models if small notches are cut in the edges of each stick to hold the tie string firmly. Shellac or glue brushed over a tied joint will make it even firmer.

Bracing: When you graduate to larger box kites, tying the corners is not going to be sufficient to hold the sticks together. Gluing, under the pressure of clamps while the glue dries, is needed to make a joint strong.

The Bow of the Cross Stick: In small kites, where a bow is needed, it can be produced by attaching a cord shorter than the cross stick to the ends of this stick with a loop slipped over each end.

Coverings: After the frame is made, you should cut the covering to size leaving a border of material larger by a couple of inches than the actual kite size. This edge can be folded back around the border string of stick and be fastened to the covering with whatever adhesive is best for that material. Tissue paper is very good for small and medium kites. Cloth, particularly silk or nylon, is still very useful for large models, but cellophane and plastic, easily fastened with cellophane tape, are the best of new materials.

THIRD YEAR CRAFTS

The following suggestions will be of specific help in planning the crafts for the Third Year Braves/Princesses:

CHANGE - the craft procedure of the first and second years. The children are developing and need more difficult tasks. Dad's interest lags if the routine of the first year is continued.

MAINTAIN - the basic Indian Purpose. Father and child must participate together. Utilize crafts in support of other third year programs such as camping or athletics.

CUSTOM BUILD - for each tribe by choosing a theme. Have vocation or hobby plans where each dad develops a project related to his business or hobby. Have one or two projects designed to take the entire year.

SUCCESS - comes only through the interest of the dads. Involve the fathers in the development of ideas and require constant side-by-side participation of fathers and sons/daughters.

Pea And Toothpick Building

Materials: round toothpicks & dried peas

Instructions: The peas must be prepared ahead of time. Pour a package of dried peas into a large bowl of water, making sure the water completely covers the peas. Let the peas soak overnight. Using round toothpicks, father and child stick them into the peas in their own creative design. The smaller peas hold best. The peas will dry out and shrink, holding construction together.

Mini -Totem Pole

Materials: 2- English Walnuts, 1-Pecan, 1-Almond, 1-Hazelnut or Acorn, 1-Wood Base, 3 inches in diameter (1/2 in section of a pine tree branch), 2-strips of wood, one 6 inches long, the other, 3 1/2 inches long, Hot glue gun

Instructions: Drill hole towards the perimeter of the base. Carve end of 6 in piece of wood, glue into the hole. Carve cross piece into wings, hot glue cross piece to the main 6 in piece. Hot Glue the nuts (bigger ones on the bottom). Paint faces on the nuts. Decorate the base and add your Indian or tribe name.

Pine Cone Turkey

Materials: large pine cone, construction paper, pipe cleaners

Instructions: Cut paper fan (for tail) from construction paper and attach to back of pine cone with white glue. Use pipe cleaners to make legs and neck. Use colored paper for head. Dad should help child with his/her turkey, and child should help dad with his.

Sand Painting

The southwestern Indians made beautiful and intricate sand paintings using a variety of colored sands made by crushing different colored sandstone. You can do the same thing starting with plain building sand.

Materials: building sand, dry (not wet) powdered tempora colors

Instructions: Mix dry powdered tempora paint with sand. Make several batches each a different color. Big and Little Braves/Princesses then "pinch" colored sands between thumb and forefinger, and draw a design on a bed of uncolored sand.

Backyard Kite

Materials: trash bags, 1/2" flat wood molding, kite string

Instructions: Each father/child team will be able to produce this kite during one long activity period. Take 2 pieces of the lightest weight molding you can buy, one piece longer than the other. Place them perpendicular to each other and lash them together at the crossing. Cut a slot at each end (4 slots total). Using regular string, pass through each slot until you have created a kite shape without the fabric. Again using string, tie one piece to the top of the kite, stretch it to the bottom and tie it onto the bottom. Do the same for the cross piece. Where these two strings cross, tie your kite string. Next, spread out a heavy plastic trash bag. Lay the kite shape face down (string up) on the plastic. Fold over the edges, trim and glue together.