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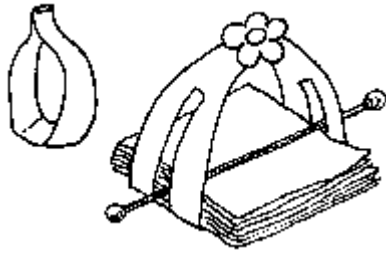
Craft projects are recommended for tribal meetings and play an important part in the life of every well-organized tribe. As parents and children participate in craft programs, they develop a sense of achievement and pride in their handiwork. Crafts afford children opportunities to:

- use their hands to make various items;
- discover new areas of interest and satisfaction;
- share activities with their parents; and
- create items that can be displayed during tribal meetings, in public, or at home.

At the same time, parents have a chance to share their skills with other families, to work closely with their own children, and to tap some new interest or skill areas of their own.

KEY FACTORS IN CRAFT PROGRAMS

Select projects with great care, taking into consideration the children's ages, skills, and development. Start out with simpler projects that younger children can do, and then work up to the more difficult crafts as the children's abilities develop. Pay attention to the children's reactions to the project you have selected. The pleasure they take in doing it, and the problems they may have, will indicate whether the next project should be more challenging, more simple, or in a different category. Avoid encouraging competition among the children in making projects. Remember these are projects for both adults and children: Emphasize parent-child teamwork. Finally, vary the types of projects from meeting to meeting. Advance preparation is the secret to a successful project for the



Camp Pillowcase

Materials: Carbon or dressmaker's paper, plain pillowcase, ballpoint tubes paints or colorfast magic markers.

Using carbon or dressmaker's paper, trace a design, name, or picture onto a plain pillowcase. Paint the picture with ballpoint tube paints or colorfast magic markers. Allow the paints to dry for 1-2 days before washing the pillowcase.

Dishcloth Placemats

Materials: Dishcloths, large blunt plastic needle, colored yarn.

Reproduce the woven design of the dishcloth by running pieces of yarn in and out of the fabric. Use the large, blunt plastic needle to weave the yarn. The yarn does not need to be secured but can extend 3" to 4" on either side as fringe.

Decorated Soap Dish

Materials: Plastic soap dish, acrylic or ballpoint tube paints.

Use the paints to decorate a plain plastic soap dish with designs, patterns, pictures, or names.

Furry Refrigerator Magnets

Materials: Drinking glass, scissors or art knife, fake fur, magnetic tap strip, small pom-pom, wiggle eyes.

Trace the rim of a drinking glass on the backside of a piece of fake fur. Cut it out, being careful not to cut through the fur but just the backing. Brush the fur outward. Glue the pom-pom nose and wiggle eyes in the center. Apply magnetic tape strip to back after removing adhesive backing.

Plaster of Paris Refrigerator Magnets

Materials: Plaster of Paris, plastic bottle caps (1 7/8" in diameter), emery board or sandpaper, paints, paint brush, decals, magnetic tape strip, scissors, petroleum jelly.

Mix plaster of Paris according to directions. If exact proportions are not available, use 1 part water to 2 parts plaster. Add the plaster to the water and mix until smooth. It sets quickly, so make a small batch at a time.

Lightly coat the plastic caps with petroleum jelly and pour the plaster into them. Do not make them too thick or the magnetic tape will not hold them onto the refrigerator. After the plaster has dried, remove it from the plastic caps and sand the edges smooth. Paint the circles after they are absolutely dry. Apply the decals at this time as well. Then cut a piece of magnetic tape, remove pull-off adhesive backing, and stick on the back.

Alternative: Use metal cookie cutters for molds and make Christmas tree ornaments. Pour plaster about ¼" thick. Place molds on a surface covered with foil or waxed paper. If they do not rest flat, place a weight on top. Make a hole for the hanger before plaster is completely set. Use a toothpick or small nail, but don't leave it in the plaster or you won't be able to pull it out.

Refrigerator Decorations

Materials: Coloring book, scissors, sheets of art foam, sequins, braid, trim, glitter, markers, magnetic tape strip.

Art foam comes in an assortment of colors. Children's coloring books offer simple and good-sized patterns. Cut out the patterns and glue them onto the foam. Trim the designs with glitter, trim, sequins, and braid. Draw features or other detail with markers. Cut and fix piece of magnetic tape to back.

Drinking Glasses

Materials: Jelly glasses, paper, pencil, enamel paints, tape, brush.

Draw a design on a piece of paper that will fit inside a jelly glass. Tape the picture in place so it can be seen from the outside. Paint the design on the outside of the glass with colorful enamels. Place the glass on a cookie sheet and put into a 225° oven for 20 minutes.

Birch Mementos

Materials: Length of white birch 4" to 6" in diameter, ring or other type of hanger, wood burning or woodcarving tools or paints and paint brush, natural materials (pinecones, fungi, shells), varnish.

Slice the white birch diagonally into ½" thick slabs, like a loaf of bread. Parents with power tools can do this easily or you can ask the local lumberyard operator to slice the wood. Decorate the slabs with wood

burned, carved, or painted designs or use natural materials such as pinecones, fungi, or shells. Complete the project with a ring at the top (or other device for hanging) and a coat of varnish.

Bookmarker

Materials: 1 ½" x 10" leather, paper, or cloth strips; pencil; paint or leatherworking tools.

Draw a design on the surface of the material, then paint the design or use leatherworking tools if you are working with leather. Personalize the design with something that has meaning to both parent and child.

tribal meeting. The attention span of the five-to-nine-year-old child is short. Plan projects that are about fifteen minutes long. For the best results, follow these simple guidelines.

- Know the craft well yourself. Complete a sample prior to the meeting so that you know how long the craft takes to make.
- Have all materials ready in advance and separate them into parts for each parent-child team.
- Arrange distribution of materials for a quick start.
- Plan teaching steps carefully, involving all parents and children in the process. Explain the craft as clearly as possible (diagrams sometimes help).
- Be alert to safety factors and group behavior so that no one gets hurt. This is particularly important when using any cutting tools or electrical equipment.
- Allow time to display completed projects if possible and/or help parents and children pack their projects so they arrive home in one piece.
- Make sure that parents and children work together. Be alert for parents who take over their children's tasks in the project or who sit back and let the children do everything.
- Expose the children to a variety of craft media – paint, wood, paper, plastic, clay, leather, metals, plaster of Paris, and so on.
- Evaluate the craft program in terms of success and need of improvement.

PROGRESSION IN EXPERIENCE

The skills of parents and children vary widely in any tribe. Five-year-olds need a great deal more help than nine-year-olds, and you will need to adjust the complexity of crafts to the age and skill levels of the children.

For *first-year tribes*, making nameplate and armbands is appropriate. Drawing, painting, and displaying animal, bird, and fish pictures are also feasible. Simplicity is the key.

Second-year tribes likewise need to have simple projects that take a fairly short time to complete. Avoid spending a lot of money on craft materials. Parents' imaginations and good planning will spark some creative ideas for anklets, breechcloths, leaf displays, bird feeders, plywood cutouts of animals, holiday decorations, and beanbag tosses.

Third-year tribes, require creativity and a change in craft projects if you want to maintain their interest. Tap the skills and hobbies of the parents. Use authentic American Indian arts and crafts for worthwhile projects. Try new materials besides wood and paper.

In the following sections, we divide the crafts into seven categories: Indian Decorations and Accessories, Holiday Crafts, Household Items, Nature Crafts, Gifts, Games and Toys, and Art. The projects listed in each category vary from simple to complex and should provide hours of fun and a sense of achievement for the parents and children in your tribe.

NATURE CRAFTS

Nature craft projects provide hours of fun and enrich parents' and children's appreciation of the natural beauty around them. Hikes, fishing trips, boat trips, and camp-outs provide many opportunities to collect natural objects and observe nature. These projects emphasize using what is available in nature and adding only a minimum of ready-made materials.

Animal Tracks

Materials: Plaster of Paris, knife, pencil, plywood plaque, screws or glue (optional).

This craft project provides multiple learning opportunities. You can take a trip to the forest or beach to discover wild animal or bird tracks. Or course, you can also look for dog, cat, and squirrel prints closer to home.

When you find a set of clear prints, mix the plaster of Paris in a container, stirring it to a smooth, spreadable consistency. Pour mixture into the animal track, and let it dry for 20 minutes before lifting. Trim the plaster with a

knife to remove excess matter; then label the mold with the name of the animal that made the track. Later, you might want to add the place where the track was found, the date it was found, and other information about the animal. You may want to mount the plaster cast on a plywood plaque with glue or screws.



Pinecone Bird Feeder

Materials: Large pinecone, peanut butter, birdseed, strings.

Tie a string on the pinecone for hanging. Then cover the pinecone with peanut butter and roll it in birdseed. Hang it up in a tree.

Corn Cob Bird Feeder

Materials: 4 corncobs, 4 large spikes, 2 sticks. Nails, hammer.

Drive the large spikes through 1 stick at equal intervals. Stick a corncob on each spike. Nail this stick to the top of the other one in the shape of a "T." Post the bird feeder in the ground and watch the birds come.

