Volun-tweens
A year of community service projects for teens and tweens

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January - Valentines Day Cards for Hospitalized Children

www.cardsforhospitalizedkids.com

Cards for Hospitalized Children accepts cards all year round! This organization asks that messages inside the card **do not** say “get well”, “feel better” or other illness related comments, but rather “stay strong”, “you are awesome”, “you inspire me”, “be brave”. Hospitals pre-screen cards, and therefore those with religious comments such as “God Bless” or “I’m praying for you” are not distributed.

Mail your cards to:
Cards for Hospitalized Kids
6567 N. Olmsted
Chicago, IL 60631

Cards will then be sent to hospitals all over the country.
Cards do not have to be in individual envelopes.


Supply Suggestions:

DIY Cards from Oriental Trading IN-48/2654 $3.28 for 50 blank cards and envelopes
Mini Valentine Heart Doilies from Oriental Trading IN-576627 $5.25 for 100 doilies
Valentine Hearts Galore Foam Stickers from Oriental Trading IN-12/4590 $6.25 for 400 foam stickers
Make a no sew Mohawk hat! Donate your hats to a coat drive, food pantry or shelter where they can be distributed to those in need.

Mohawk Fleece Hats


Supplies:

Fleece Fabric
Scissors

You are going to need a rectangle for the hat. The dimensions will be according to the size of the head of the child. The vertical measurement of the rectangle is standard at 13 inches (do about 10 for babies). The horizontal measurement will be the length of the head's circumference, plus 2 inches for the bows (fringe). In my case, I started with a 13" by 24" for my 5 year old.

Cut your rectangle carefully with your scissors. cut a 2" long by 3/4" wide fringe all along the vertical, shorter edge. It is important that you cut both edges at the same time so the fringes match perfectly, or you will get holes in between your bows. To do so, fold your fleece in half, perfectly aligning the two vertical edges together.

Open your fleece now and place it on your work surface horizontally and fold the edges so they touch each other. Take the first set of fringes and make a square knot (making a bow). Then take the second set of fringes and do a knot and so on until you get to the desire height of hat. Make sure you use the same knot technique each time for consistency. (i.e. left side fringe under all the time)

Now, scrounge your hat with your hands right after the last bow. Take a thin piece of fleece and secure it with a tight double knot. You have your pom pom. Adjust it by pulling it to the desire shape (or cut it if you think is too long).

Supply Suggestions:

Fleece from Wal-Mart approximately $2.50 per yard, depending on pattern and color
Purchase pre-cut kits from Makingfriends.com Hats 4 the Homeless Community Service Pack $7.99 for a kit that makes four hats.
March - Placemats for Meals on Wheels

Add some cheer for a Meals on Wheels Delivery, when you make colorful placemats. Meals on Wheels helps fight senior hunger.

9.3 million Americans over the age of 60 face the threat of hunger. That’s 1 in 6. (from www.mowaa.org/about-senior-hunger)

To find a local Meals on Wheels chapter, visit www.mowaa.org/findameal. Contact your local Meals on Wheels as a starting off point, they may refer you to other agencies in our area that handle meal delivery programs.

Woven Paper Placemats

Supplies:

Paper - construction paper, scrapbook paper

Tape

Tutorial from: http://kidsactivitiesblog.com/47194/paper-weaving-craft-for-kids#_a5y_p=1042594

1. Take your first piece of paper and fold it in half. Cut the folder paper in half but don’t cut all the way through. Leave the last inch or so uncut.
2. Next, cut the two halves in half again so you now have four equal cut sections.
3. Cut off of the sections in half again, so now there are eight equal sections.

4. Unfold the first piece of paper and you now have a page that has evenly spaced slots for weaving.
5. Take a second piece of paper and cut it in the same way as the first, but this time cut it all the way through so that you are left with eight strips of paper.
6. Weave the strips of paper through the slots in the first piece of paper. To achieve a checkerboard formation, start by weaving the first strip of paper under then over the slots. For the next strip of paper, alternate the pattern ie start the second strip by weaving under then over.
7. When you have finished weaving, fold the ends of the strips to the back and tape them down with adhesive tape.

Supply Suggestions:

Scrapbook paper from Oriental Trading can be purchased in bundles of various holiday and color themes. 100 pieces of scrapbook paper costs approximately $16.99

Oriental Trading Placemat Kits

DIY Foam Gingerbread House Place Mats IN-57/2489, kit makes 12 place mats for $13.99
Color Your Own Thanksgiving Place Mats IN-48/4667, kit makes 12 place mats for $5.25
Winter Weaving Placemat Craft Kit IN-13670745, kit makes 12 place mats for $10.50
Fall Colors Weaving Place Mat Craft Kit IN 48/3262, kit makes 12 place mats for $10.50
April - Coupons for Troops
Lend a hand to military families over seas

Supplies:

Scissors

Magazines, newspapers with circulars where manufacturer coupons are printed

Send active coupons to:
Couponcabin.com
attn. Active Coupons for Troops
PO BOX 231
Whiting, IN 46394-0231

Send expired coupons to:
Couponcabin.com
attn: Expired Coupons for Troops
PO BOX 430 Whiting, IN 46394-0430

Get details from www.couponcabin.com/troops

Only manufacturer coupons are accepted.

Expired coupons work—coupons can be used on overseas military bases for up to six months past their expiration date. Many military families rely on donated coupons to help offset the expense of living overseas.

Coupons may be from newspapers, dispensers in grocery stores, tear-pads, and elsewhere as long as they state “Manufacturer’s Coupon” on them.

Store and restaurant Coupons are not accepted. Coupons printed from the internet are not accepted.
May - Summer Reading Program Decorations

Lend your talents to the Library! Create decorations and art work that will be on display in the Children’s Department for all to enjoy!

Cityscape

Supplies:

Scissors

Construction Paper (black/gray for buildings, yellow for windows)

Boxes (ask your technical services department)

Action Word Call Outs

Supplies: Tissue paper in bold colors

Pre-print action words

Instructions: view this tutorial [https://youtube.com/watch?v=FJCRoxccsWY](https://youtube.com/watch?v=FJCRoxccsWY) on How to Make Tissue Paper Pom Poms

The 411

Decorations won’t look store bought or perfect, but that is the best part! Participants love showing off their work, it is inspiring to other children in the community. It is a friendly reminder to young patrons the Children’s/Teen room is a space that belongs to them.
June - Cat’s Meow: Donate to the Animal Shelter

June is adopt a cat month, sponsored by the American Humane Association. Make cat nip toys to be donated to your local animal shelter.

Supplies:

Youth or baby socks (try your local dollar stores, a four pack usually costs $1.00)

Cat nip

Batting

Felt

Roll an 8 1/2 by 11 inch piece of paper into a cone for a funnel; secure with tape. Insert funnel into sock, and fill halfway with catnip and batting. Knot just above filling.

Cut out eyes, mouth or other decorations from a piece of felt. Attach to sock with nontoxic fabric glue.
July - Be the Hero

Design and craft superhero capes to be donated to the Capes for Kids organization, turning ordinary kids into superheroes at Peyton Manning’s Children’s Hospital at St. Vincent.

Visit:

Supplies

Fleece
Felt
Self stick Velcro squares
Fabric glue or hot glue guns

Cape donation form found on : https://give.stvincent.org/document.doc?id=541

For template visit: https://give.stvincent.org/document.doc?id=541
August - Project Linus

Be a Project Linus Blanketeer! Project Linus, a non-profit organization provides homemade blankets to children in need.

Visit:
https://www.projectlinus.org/

Supplies

1.5 yards of fleece
Scissors/rotary cutter
Seam ripper
Template:

Trim off Selvage edges and square uneven edges as needed
Cut a 4” square from each corner of the fleece. Discard small squares.
Cut 4”x1” wide fringe around blanket
Using a seam ripper, make a tiny slit at the top of each fringe piece
Feed the end of the fringe through the back side of the slit you just cut and pull through to create a neat and secure fringed edge.
Drop off blankets at a designated blanket drop off center. Find one here: https://www.projectlinus.org/volunteer/

The 411

Must be new, handmade, washable blankets
Blankets of all sizes are welcome
Blankets must be free of pins, and come from a smoke-free environment, due to allergy reasons.
September - Hot Dogs

DIY one of a kind dog bandanas that will be donated to a local animal shelter.

Supplies

Bandanas
Fabric Markers
Tie-dye

Supply Suggestions

SSWW.com - White Bandanas (pack of 12) $14.99 Item Number CM1666
SSWW.com - Crayola Broadline Fabric Markers (pack of 8) $6.49 Item Number SC1205
SSWW.com - Tulip One Step Tie-Dye Kit, Rainbow $19.99 Item Number PT3489
October - Thank a Vet!

Thank a veteran for their services this Veteran’s Day. Donate cards to a local veterans home or hospital.

Supplies

Paper, art supplies (crayons, markers, stickers, stamps, etc.)

Product recommendations

Orientaltrading.com - Patriotic Paper Stack $16.99 for 100 sheets, Item Number IN-13641278

Orientaltrading.com - Patriotic Star Shapes $8.25 for 500 stickers, Item Number IN-48/6791

Orientaltrading.com - Fabulous Foam Star Glitter Shapes $9.25 for 500 stickers, Item Number IN-27/2437

Orientaltrading.com - DIY Cards $3.28 for 50 blank cards and envelopes, Item Number IN-48/2654

Find a donation facility: http://www.volunteer.va.gov/apps/VolunteerNow/
November - Spread Thanksgiving Cheer

Craft Thanksgiving centerpieces for local soup kitchens and bundle plastic silverware.

Supplies

Centerpiece
Paper lunch bags
Scrapbook paper
Scissors
Pipe cleaner (optional)
Glue

Silverware Bundles
Napkins
Plastic forks
Plastic knives
Plastic spoons
Napkin bands (try amazon, Paper napkin standard band; box of 2500 costs $12.54, available in a variety of colors)
Plastic gloves (for children/teens to wear when handling silverware)

Centerpiece Instructions
Trace your hand on several colors of construction paper and cut out for feather shapes
Roll back top edge of paper bag and glue on feathers
Cut out wings, head and pilgrim hat from construction paper. Attach to bag. Use a red chenille stem/pipe cleaner for the turkey’s wattle.
December - Create a Calendar

Calendars for nursing home residents

Supplies

Paper

Art supplies (stamps, crayons, markers, stickers, etc.)

Suggestion: www.orientaltrading.com - Month and season Paper Pack $5.40 for 16 sheets, Item Number IN-65/60849

2016 calendar (can be made in Microsoft Publisher)

Binding machine (available on www.amazon.com, starting at $42.00),

or you can use a hole punch and binder rings

or calendar kits can be purchased from www.orientaltrading.com - DIY Mini Calendars, $9.25 for 12, item number IN-57/6212