

# Chapter 10 - Crafts



Most Cubs love to work with their hands and use tools. They like to use imagination to design or modify something and make it their very own idea. They like the sense of satisfaction they get when they show off something they've made to parents and friends. And they especially like to put what they've made to use as a decoration, toy or gadget.

Make crafts a regular part of your program. At Cub age, fine motor skills are developing; crafts are an important and interesting way to help that development. A nature craft session at camp is a good idea. You might even want to suggest craft ideas that interested Cubs can work on at home.

Many craft ideas relate to the Natural World, Outdoor, and Creative Expression Activity Areas. Check out *The Cub Book*, and Scouts Canada's web site for many more suggestions.

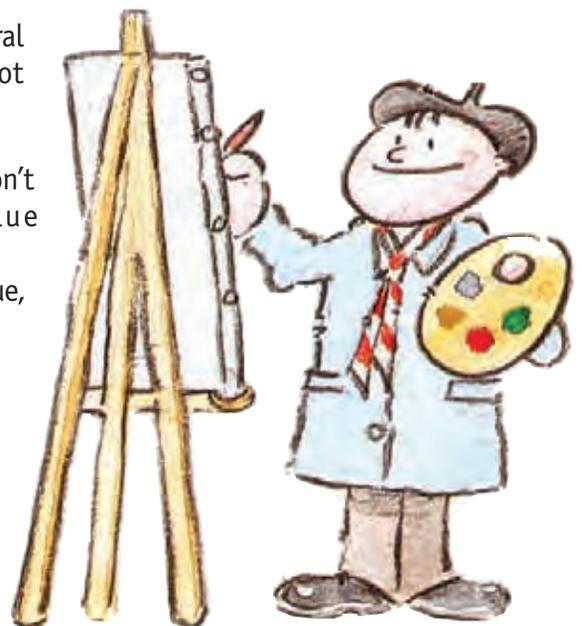
Many excellent web sites exist detailing craft projects and designs. Visit Scouts Canada's web site ([www.scouts.ca](http://www.scouts.ca)) for links to some of them.

Because a craft often takes longer than other activities to complete, you may need to revise your normal meeting schedule to accommodate it. First make the craft yourself to see how long it takes. Remember that Cubs will probably take a lot longer than you to make it, and plan accordingly. You could devote the last half of the meeting to the project, skipping a game or two if necessary. An ambitious craft may take the entire evening.

# Organizing a Craft

Many leaders use a standard routine to plan and run craft sessions. Let's review some.

1. Make the craft yourself first to:
  - Be sure it can be done. Published craft ideas don't always work as well for you as for the authors. You may have to modify or even abandon the design.
  - Estimate the time it will take so you can plan for it in your meeting.
  - Judge whether it will be interesting and challenging for your Cubs without being too challenging. You may decide it's suitable only for older or younger Cubs.
  - See how messy it is. Will you have to spread around newspapers? Should the Cubs wear old clothes?
2. Estimate the cost of the project. Can your pack afford it? Can you substitute less expensive or recycled materials? If you decide to substitute, try it again to make sure the different materials work.
3. Prepare written instructions for the other leaders and, if it will help, large diagrams for your Cubs.
4. Collect or buy materials well in advance. Craft supplies are always changing. Have some extra material on hand in case of spoilage.
5. Before the session starts, and preferably while Cubs are busy with something else, lay out the materials following these tips:
  - Put individual portions at each Cub's place. This can save some time but may also tempt Cubs to play with the material when you are describing the project. To remove the temptation, ask the other leaders to distribute individual portions after you've finished your explanation.
  - Have Cubs collect what they need from a central "depot." Perhaps you can set up one depot for each six, although this might take more time.
  - Hold back the extra materials so your Cubs won't use them up before they're needed. Glue is a good example. It seems a law of nature that Cubs will use 95 percent of all available glue, no matter how much they start with.





6. Begin the session by showing Cubs the finished craft. Tell them what it is, and demonstrate what it does. If it is small, carry it around so everyone can see.



**Bear Wisdom:** Everyone learns differently when learning a new skill (think of learning to tie your shoes). Some people learn by listening, some by watching and doing, or some by reading illustrations. Try to incorporate different styles of presenting an idea or skill with variety and ways to appeal to your whole pack.

7. Slowly describe how to make the craft, pointing to any diagrams you've provided and demonstrating some or all of the steps. If Cubs can make choices in design or decoration, you may want to indicate some of the possibilities, but leave others to their ingenuity.
8. Have them build a complicated craft step-by-step, and check each Cub's work at each step. If you're short of helpers, avoid complicated crafts. For simple crafts, let them go at their own speed; be prepared for Cubs who finish early by having something else for them to do.
9. Try to have a supervisor work with each six. If you don't have enough leaders, invite parents to help or ask the Scout troop or Venturer company for volunteers. Brief helpers in advance so they know what to do.
10. Help Cubs only if they need it. There's little satisfaction in a craft when someone else does all the important steps. Although it's often difficult to decide when you should help and when you should let them struggle, here's a good rule of thumb: "When in doubt, let them do it." Some Cubs may need more help because of physical, mental or other disabilities, but give them only what they need. For example, if you have a Cub who can concentrate only for a short time, give the youth a half-completed craft to finish. Ask Cubs to put their initials or name somewhere on the craft for later identification.
11. Have your Cubs clean up. It takes longer when they do it, but they need to learn to take responsibility for their actions.



## Various Craft Projects

Following are several crafts to get you started. Some relate directly to star requirements.

### Wolf Head Woggles (Tawny Star)

Send home a note asking parents to save the bones found in turkey necks that they cook. Include instructions for boiling and drying the bones, and ask Cubs to bring them to the pack ready to be painted. When you've collected enough turkey bones for each Cub to make a woggle, hold a woggle-making night.

#### Materials

- Turkey necks. Each yields six to ten bones. The larger the turkey, the more bones.
- Black felt
- Red felt
- White or craft glue
- Small beads with centre holes to thread onto a wire for the eyes
- Black spray paint
- Fine coloured wire. The type found inside telephone cable is a good weight.

#### At home

1. Boil turkey necks until you can easily remove all meat and cartilage from the bones. One neck has several separate pieces of bone, each of which looks remarkably like a wolf head. Rinse the bare bones with warm water.
2. Spread the bones on newspaper, and set them in a warm place to dry for a day or two. Caution: choose a place out of reach of your pet dog or cat.

#### At one pack meeting

3. Spray paint the bones black, and let them dry overnight. If necessary, apply another coat of paint, and let the bones dry.

#### With the pack

4. Cut two small triangles of black felt; glue these onto the bones, making ears. Cut a small tongue from red felt, and glue into the mouth-like opening near the bottom of the bone.
5. From the back of the bone, thread wire through the two eye holes. Slip the beads onto the wire, and feed the wire back through the holes to secure the eyes. Then form a wire loop at the back of the woggle, making it the size you need to hold your scarf in place. Reinforce the loop by coiling the wire around it until you have the thickness you like.

Slip the woggle onto your scarf, and show it off to your friends.





## Leaf Plaque (Black Star)

### Materials

- Dried and pressed leaves
- For each Cub, a reasonably smooth piece of scrap wood, large enough to mount one or two leaves
- Sandpaper
- Clear-drying white glue
- Small screw eyes
- Wire
- Optional: alphabet noodles

1. Go out on a fall outing to collect enough leaves so each Cub will have a few.
2. Give each Cub a few leaves to dry and press in a heavy book at home.
3. At a Cub meeting, have youth sand the pieces of wood and wipe them clean. (Ask Cubs to print their names on the back.)
4. Ask Cubs to choose a few leaves, place them decoratively on their wood, and cover them liberally with white glue. If they want, your members can glue on alphabet noodles to name the leaves, or provide another suitable label (e.g. their own names, pack name, Cub Motto).
5. Set aside to dry, and go on to another activity. As the glue dries it becomes transparent and lets the leaves show through.
6. Attach screw eyes to the back, and thread in wire for hanging. (It's easier if you drill holes before putting in the screw eyes.)

## Tribal Totem Pole (A Six Project)

### Materials

- An assortment of plastic yogurt cartons
  - String
  - A fine steel skewer
  - A candle
  - Matches
  - A small elastic band
1. Heat the tip of the skewer in the candle flam and pierce a hole in the exact centre of the bottom of each carton. NOTE! Adults should do this step prior to the meeting.
  2. Tie one end of the string to a spent match, thread the other end through the hole in the bottom of the largest carton, and add the other cartons one by one to build up an attractive design for your totem.



3. The illustration shows two cartons of the same size fitted rim to rim. Cut the string at this point so you can insert the elastic band.
4. When you reach the top, stand the totem on a flat surface and ask a friend to hold it firmly in position while you pull the string hard to stretch the elastic band.
5. Keeping the elastic at full stretch, tie another spent match to the end with a clove hitch so when the strain is released, the match will clamp down hard on the carton and hold the others firmly together.
6. Finally, make cutouts of jungle characters, colour them with felt pens, and mount them on your tribal totem pole.

## Plaster Casts On An Outing

### Materials

- Plaster of Paris (dental plaster is best)
  - A bowl and spoon to mix the plaster
  - Water
  - A strip of fairly stiff paper or card (5 cm x 30 cm)
  - A wire paper clip
  - String
1. Look for a track in soft ground. The edge of a pond is a good place to look.
  2. Make a loop with the strip of card; hold it together with the paper clip, and press it gently into the ground around the track.
  3. Put a small quantity of water into the bowl and sprinkle in the Plaster of Paris. Stir gently to avoid creating bubbles. Keep adding plaster until the mixture has the consistency of thick cream.
  4. Pour the plaster into the track to a depth of about 2.5 cm inside the collar.
  5. The plaster takes a few minutes to set. When it shows signs of stiffening, carefully press a small loop of string or another paper clip into the back so you can hang the completed cast on a wall or board.

Hint: If you use ordinary Plaster of Paris, you can speed up the setting process by adding a pinch of salt to the mixture.



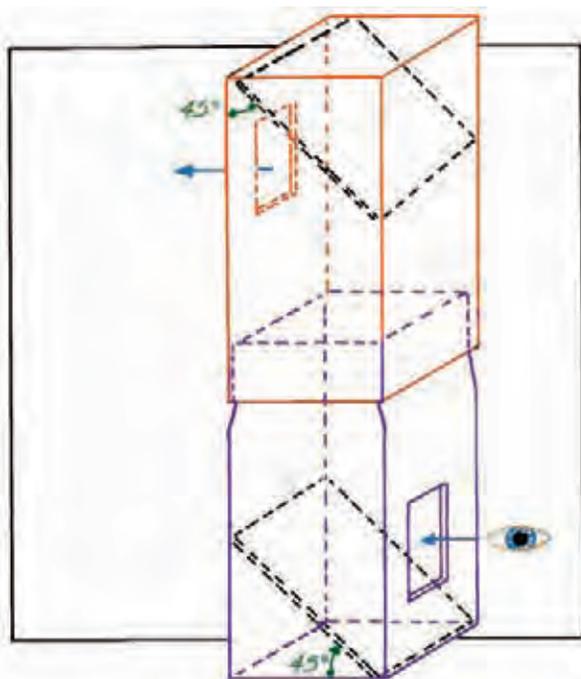


## Periscope (Tawny Star)

### Materials

- Two one-litre milk cartons
- Two small mirrors that can fit inside the cartons at an angle of 45 degrees
- A sharp knife
- Strong tape

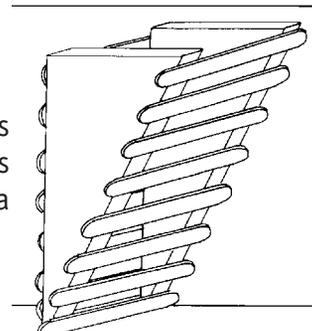
1. Cut off the tops of both milk cartons.
2. On one side of each carton about 4 cm from the bottom, cut a window about 5 cm x 5 cm.
3. Slide a mirror into each carton (reflecting side up) so it rests on the bottom at an angle of 45 degrees. If the mirror is too small, back it with stiff cardboard to make it big enough. If the mirror is too big, cut a slit in the milk carton on the side opposite the window to take the excess. Tape the mirrors into position.
4. Fit one carton into the other with the windows on opposite sides, so the total length is about 40 cm. Tape them together.



## Popsicle or tongue depressor crafts

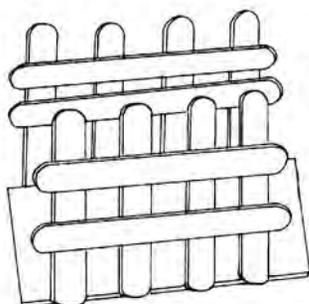
### Letter Holder

For the sides of this craft, cut two wood or cork triangles. Make connecting sides by gluing sticks lengthwise between the edges of the triangles (as shown). To hang it, thread cord through two holes in the back or glue on a picture hanger.



### Hot Dish Mat (Tawny Star)

Glue 12 sticks to flat burlap or felt. Place under a heavy weight to dry, then glue two sticks across the back. Paint or apply a decal. (Tawny Star)



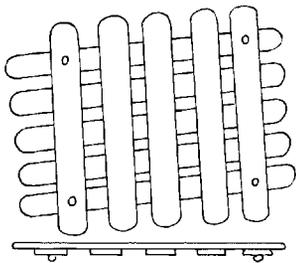
### Napkin or Letter Holder

Use wood 5 cm x 7.5 cm for the base. Sand it until smooth. Glue four sticks to each side (as shown). When the glue is dry, glue two sticks across each side. Paint or varnish.



## Pencil Holder or Flower Pot

Choose a can no taller than the length of your sticks. Lay enough sticks side-by-side to fit around the can; tape them at the back. Apply glue to the sides of the can and arrange sticks in position. Tie a string around the can until the glue is dry.



## Hot Dish Stand (Tawny Star)

Place five sticks, as shown in the illustration. Glue five sticks across them. Glue a wooden bead to each corner on the underside of the stand.

## Craft Sources

The crafts described here are all relatively simple to make. When you know your Cubs' capabilities, you'll probably try more challenging projects, especially with older members. To learn and feel a sense of accomplishment, all Cubs (young and old) need to tackle crafts that stimulate and challenge their manual dexterity, imagination and creativity.

A good place to start looking for craft ideas is the children's section of your public library. Many children's magazines feature one or more craft articles in every issue, and your library probably subscribes to several of them. Your nearest Scout Shop carries an assortment of useful books and kits as well. Of course, the links on Scouts Canada's web site provide excellent ideas too.

Other Scouters are your best craft sources. Ask for suggestions at your next Scouters' Club meeting. *Scouting Life* is another excellent resource, brimming over with field-tested ideas shared by Scouters from all over the country. If you come across a unique craft idea contact *Scouting Life* ([scoutinglife@scouts.ca](mailto:scoutinglife@scouts.ca)). We'd love to hear from you!

