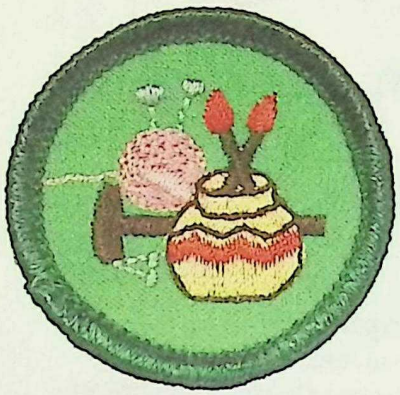
"Making" Hobbies



"Making" hobbies are activities in which you create something. See the list of crafts in the box for some of the "making" hobbies. Start now to learn about the world of crafts. Choose a craft and try the activities.



1. Choose Your Craft

Before starting any hobby you need to see if it will fit into your lifestyle. Ask yourself these questions and discuss the answers with an adult family member or your troop or group leader.

- Is this hobby fun?
- Can I afford it?
- Do I have time for it?
- Do I have room for it?
- Are there any environmental concerns?

What craft meets your needs?

2. Practice Your Craft

Check with experts and in craft books, or surf the Web for ideas and instructions. Go to craft and variety stores or check around the house for supplies. With adult help if needed, make at least three examples of your craft.

3. Re-Craft

Practice your craft using a material you've never used before. Make at least one example of the new craft. Show your new craft item to others and explain what you have learned about using different materials.

4. Where and When

Learn more about your craft by looking at global and historical examples. Try finding global examples at craft fairs and museums, in books, and by surfing the Web. Look for historical examples at antique shows, flea markets, and museums, and in books. Discuss what you learned with your troop, group, or family members. If possible, show some examples of global and historical crafts to others.

5. Make a Recycled Craft

Try making craft items from things you normally throw away. Look in craft books or on the Web for ideas on how to use egg cartons, juice lids, packing peanuts, or other items. You can make a craft that you are familiar with or choose a new craft entirely.

6. Make a Craft with a Nature Theme

Many crafts have nature themes. Learn how to use nature in crafts. Make a craft item with a focus on plants and animals. Here are some examples:

- A print made with leaves
- A mosaic made from eggshells
- A basket made of plant materials

7. An Honor

Your craft project is being placed in the "Museum of Modern Crafts." Write a description of the piece that will appear in the museum. Include details of tools, materials used, and other interesting information.

8. Your Own Gift Wrap

After you have made several craft items, you might want to give some away as gifts. Design your own gift wrap and wrap up your homemade gifts.

9. Crafty Cash

Find out more about people involved in the crafts business. Visit a crafts person where she works or have her come to your troop or group meeting to share information about her job. If that is not possible, find information about professional crafts people in books or magazines or on the Web. Share the information that you learn with your troop, group, or family.

10. Safe Crafts

Help protect yourself and others while you are practicing your craft by making a Craft Safety Checklist. Think about the tools and supplies involved in making crafts. Brainstorm with others to come up with a list of at least eight to ten safety guidelines. Start your list with these two safety rules:

1. Store sharp tools in a safe place. Never leave them on the floor.
2. Use aerosols in a well-ventilated area, never in a small, closed room.

Write down your Craft Safety Checklist and keep it for future reference.

Types of Crafts

Knitting
Crocheting
Embroidery
Sketching
Photography
Weaving
Sewing
Jewelry making
Painting
T-shirt design
Pottery
Basket weaving
Tole painting
Macramé
Decoupage
Wreath making
Mosaics
Woodworking