

# Putting Crafts into Your Cub Program

BY HEATHER SHORE

**T**he most important thing to remember when planning crafts for your pack is “Know Your Youth”. Cub age youth between the ages of 8–10 all have different levels of fine motor skills, so it is important to pick a craft that all the youth can do without a great deal of difficulty, or that they can complete with just a little help.

A craft can be many things, from making a picture using items picked up on a hike in the woods, drawing and colouring a map of the community the Cubs live in (complete with buildings and vehicles), designing their Kub Kar, or decorating flower pots to plant seeds into for one of the Gardening Badge requirements, to name just a few.

Make sure your craft follows the theme of your meeting. For instance, during a National Wildlife Week in Canada theme, we discussed pollinators and their role in our daily lives. The craft for the evening was for the youth to make up their own plant or flower that must be pollinated, and a creature responsible for pollinating it. They drew these two things on paper, colored them in, and presented them to the rest of the pack at the end of the evening. What great imaginations they have!

## Thirteen Crafty Tips

- Remember the 3 rs; reduce, reuse, recycle. If you purchase some items in bulk, re-use leftovers for future crafts (i.e. beads). Toilet paper rolls, empty plastic pop bottles, etc. are excellent craft materials.
- Do the craft yourself first! Never attempt the craft for the first time during your meeting. This could be disastrous. There’s nothing worse than a craft that doesn’t work at a meeting, as it discourages both the youth and the leaders.
- If you are lucky enough to have a Cub age youth in your house, let them do the craft following the instructions to see how difficult it is. This will also give you an idea of how much time is required, or allow you to modify it slightly to ensure the youth can do it.
- Some crafts will take more than one meeting to complete: Kub Kars, for example. It is important that the youth keep all the pieces together during the meetings to ensure nothing is lost until completion.
- You do not need to do a craft every meeting.
- Make sure you cycle your crafts within your three year plan to ensure you don’t do the same ones every year. This shouldn’t be a problem if your craft follows the theme of your weekly meetings.
- Always have a completed sample for the youth to look at and follow. Some youth are extremely visual, and can follow the craft by looking at the sample. I have had youth who are dyslexic and cannot read the instructions, but can complete the craft by looking at the sample, and following one of the leaders doing the craft.
- Make sure the instructions are easy to understand. Pictures help a lot.
- When possible, I like to pre-pack everything into a Ziploc™ bag for each youth. I always make sure I have a few extras, “just in case” something was miscounted or I have extra youth or leaders who want to do the craft.
- Be patient. Everyone works at a different level and speed. Ensure you have a back-up activity for youth who finish faster than everyone else to keep them busy.
- Remember that the completed crafts will not always look the same. Everyone is an individual, and expresses themselves differently!
- Make sure you praise the effort put forth by each individual youth.
- Be prepared, like any other activity during your meeting, to let the craft take over. I once did a craft with my Cubs that involved the use of paper. Their finished Chinese lanterns were beautiful! However, then the Cubs decided to make airplanes with the leftover paper. We spent the balance of the meeting designing, building and flying paper airplanes. What fun!

Youth are exceptional at expressing themselves in many ways, and crafts are just one wonderful outlet for this. X  
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## Web Site Favourites

**T**here are number of great craft web sites (what did we ever do without the internet?). There are also some listed under the Leader Resources area of the Scouts Canada web site at [www.scouts.ca](http://www.scouts.ca). A few of my other favorites are:

[familyfun.com](http://familyfun.com)

[makingfriends.com](http://makingfriends.com)

[crafts.kaboose.com/cub-scout](http://crafts.kaboose.com/cub-scout)

[e-scoutcraft.com](http://e-scoutcraft.com)

[enchantedlearning.com](http://enchantedlearning.com)

## Emergency Preparedness



**C**oming soon! We will have all sorts of resources for the new Emergency Preparedness program this fall. Check out <http://www.scouts.ca/inside.asp?cmPageID=1555> often for updates!