

TROOP PROGRAM IDEAS

Things to celebrate in Oct.

Dinosaur Month
Rollerskating Month
Stamp Collecting Month
Adopt a Shelter Dog Month
Oct. 1 Vegetarian Day
Oct. 7 Yom Kippur
Oct. 9 Fire Prevention Day
Oct. 10 Columbus Day
Oct. 16 Dictionary Day
Oct. 31 Halloween and Juliette
Lows Birthday!

Things to celebrate in Nov.

Aviation History Month
National Epilepsy Month
Peanut Butter Month
Nov. 2 Look for Circles Day
Nov. 3 Sandwich Day
Nov. 5 Book Lovers Day
Nov. 17 Take a Hike Day
Nov. 24 Thanksgiving

Invention Game

Girls may work individually or in small groups. Give each girl or group a paper bag in which are odds and ends found around the house i.e. rubber bands, paper clips, spools, pencils, clothes pins, etc. Have the girls invent such things as a machine to do something, playground equipment, something to help with a household chore, a vehicle, etc.



Rainy day activities at camp

Maybe if we plan for some rainy day fun, it will actually rain and help end our drought! Nothing is worse than planning for months all the activities you want to do when you go to camp, only to have it rain. Time for Plan B!

Spinning Yarns

Use a ball of yarn to begin your story. The first person begins to tell a tale and tosses the ball of yarn to another "storyteller," while keeping hold of the loose end. As the story continues around the group and each person tosses the ball to a new person, while the previous person holds the yarn. Is it still raining? Reverse the process and keep the story going, while you roll up the yarn back into a ball.



Rain Coat Art

Each camper should bring a black trash bag to camp to use as emergency rain gear. On a rainy day—use scissors to cut the corner of the black bag about five inches from the top edge to form a "hat" for the raincoat. When the girls put the coat on, cut arm holes accordingly. Use stickers to decorate. Be creative with scalloping the bottom of the "coat" to have even more fun.

October
2011

Science Fun

Tie Dye Filter Fun

Materials:
One coffee filter per child
One cup water per child
1/2 pipe cleaner
Water colored markers

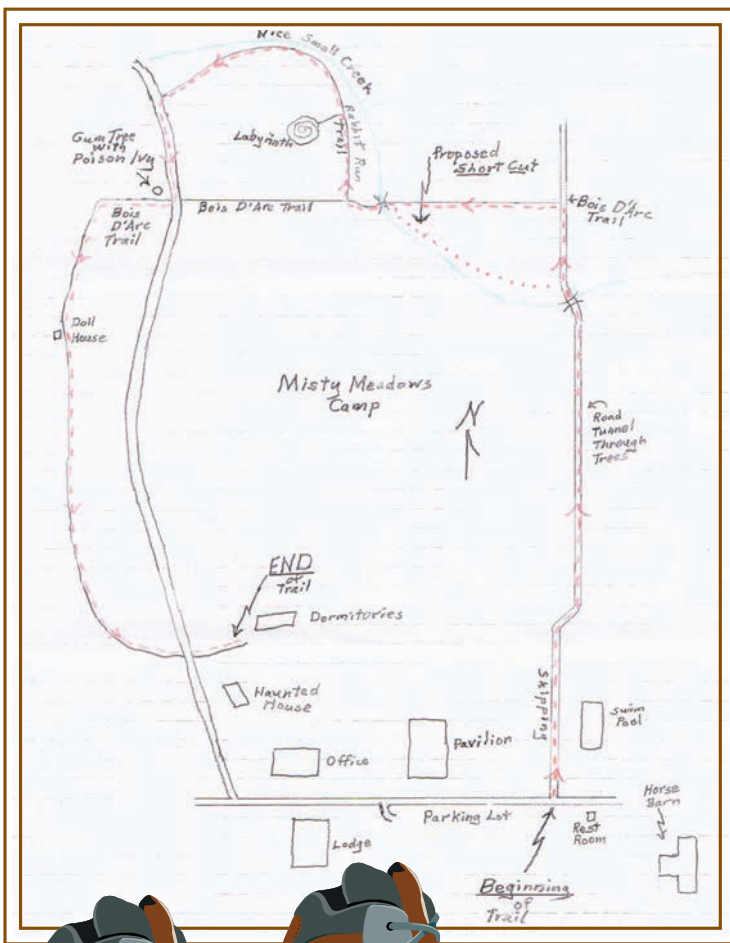
Color different rings around coffee filter with markers. Place decorated coffee filters on top of a cup filled with water. Poke small hole in the middle of the coffee filter with the pipe cleaner. Push pipe cleaner down through the filter and into the water. The water will wick up the pipe cleaner, wet the filter and cause the watercolor marks to bleed. Allow filter to dry.



Gummy Divers

Materials:
Gummy Bears - Candy
A Glass of clear soda (Sprite or 7-Up)

Simply put the Gummy Bears in the glass of soda and watch them rise and sink. The carbonated bubbles in the soda cling to the bears to make them float, and when the bubbles pop, the bears sink.



Take a hike!

Treelake has a lot of fun trails for you to explore with your troop. A great way to get started is to take a guided hike with GSSJC Forester Henry Steitz. You don't have to be camping, just come up for the day and explore camp with Henry. Hikes are available on Saturdays throughout the year. Register online.

Are you camping at Camp Misty Meadows and need help finding the start and end of the Bois D'Arc Trail? At left is a sketch to guide you along the trail and show to you the highlights along the way including a detour on Rabbit Run Trail to see the Labyrinth.

When you're at camp, consider taking a night hike. Hiking at night can be a totally new experience for many. As humans, we are not nocturnal creatures. Our eyes are our primary sense, and they are made for color vision using lots of light. To hike at night, is to connect with the forest in a new and interesting way.

- **Light and color** – Pass out a different color square of paper to each girl. Ask them to look at it and guess what color they think it is. Have the girls put the square in a pocket. When the group returns to light, have them check and see if they were right. Colors are nearly impossible for humans to see at night. We have two types of cells in our eyes called rods and cones. Rods are light sensitive cells helpful with seeing at night and cones allow for seeing in color. Humans have many more cone (color) cells than rod (night vision) cells; therefore, our color vision is great (during the day) and our night vision is poor.
- Have the girls form a circle. Pass out the Lifesavers. Tell them that they are to chew with their mouths open. Count to three and have everyone chew at the same time, watching each other. (They should see sparks caused by an ingredient in the Lifesaver.) Ask girls to explain what caused the sparks. The sparks are essentially bolts of lightning in your mouth. When sugar crystals break, they release a weak burst of ultra-violet energy. This energy excites the molecules of the wintergreen oil in the lifesavers and causes the oil to glow, or fluoresce.

Service Idea

Help say thank you to U.S. troops overseas

Ten-year-old Stephen Goodman, a fifth-grader in Surprise, Arizona, wants to send a thank you card to military personnel, not to one platoon, or to just one division, but to every actively deployed service member in the U.S. military. Stephen said he thought of the idea while spending the summer with his grandparents in Phoenix. "My grandpa went to Vietnam and didn't get any cards, and he felt forgotten," he said.

Stephen started locally, creating and hand-delivering 218 Fourth of July cards for patients at the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center in Phoenix. The feedback was so thrilling and positive that Stephen started thinking: Why not send one to everyone deployed?

He began paying attention to news reports. Somewhere, he gleaned the number of overseas troops to be 180,000. "I was really taken aback when he said he wanted to do one for all the troops," said Stephen's father, Steven Goodman. "I explained to him it was a big project, and because of what his intentions were, he would have to carry it out."

Each thank you card is handmade, using "construction paper and scissor designs and markers and stickers and my imagination and that's it," said Stephen. The entire family pitches in. So far, they've made about 15,000 cards.

Vice President Joe Biden happened to catch Stephen's story while traveling through Phoenix last August. Stephen got his own thank you in the mail. "It just said thank you for what I'm doing, the soldiers will appreciate it," he remembered. The letter made Stephen's summer. "It made me feel very excited to know that the vice president sent me something," he said. When all 180,000 cards are done, the Goodman's plan to take them to Luke Air Force Base where they will be delivered overseas all at once to make sure no soldier is over looked.

– Original story by Amy B. Wang, writer for *The Arizona Republic*.

How to help Stephen meet his goal!

A2 is the preferred size: half of a piece of 8.5 x 11 cardstock cut in a 4.25" x 5.5" strip and folded. Red, white and blue... or anything your heart desires, but do not use glitter! The inside greeting must be hand written. Yes, personalize, sign your first name only. Send envelopes along with your cards – do not address envelopes.

Stephen needs to receive your cards by November 18, 2011. Mail your cards directly to: (not to any GSSJC offices, will not be mailed) Stephen's Thank You Card Project/Bazzill Basics Paper, 7001 W. Erie St., Ste. 2, Chandler, AZ 85226

