



Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development

Teen Action and Growth

Developing 4-H Teen Leaders for our club, community, country and world

Workshop Title: Balloon Magic

Subject matter to be taught: Construction of balloon figures.

Objective for teaching the subject (what will the participants learn?) Teens will learn an inexpensive edutainment skill that they can teach to younger 4-H members at the local club level or use as a service project to entertain residents in a nursing home or for children in a hospital.



Outline of the Workshop

Introduction:

Most audiences, young and old, are fascinated by watching a balloon artist at work.

People find balloon figure tying a fascinating pastime and an entertaining hobby enjoyed by people of all ages and it is limitless in its application.

Balloon figures make excellent rewards and gifts for children, party decorations and favors, are an educational and therapeutic tool, fun craft and can be a storytelling aid.

Simple examples of balloon figures include the bunny, swan, dog, fish, giraffe, sword, gun, and a parrot.

To decrease balloon breakage follow these suggestions before beginning:

- Fresh balloons from reputable source.
- Keep balloons stored in original packaging or one like it. Keep them away from heat, sunlight or extreme temperatures.
- Stretch the balloon before you blow it up.
- Don't blow the balloon up too fast.
- Don't put too much air into the balloon (space is needed for twists).
- Make sure your hands are not rough.
- Avoid sharp objects.
- When coming in from the cold roll the balloons between the palms of your hands and breath on it to warm it up.
- Pass out a balloon to each participant.

The most difficult things to learn in the creation of balloon figures is how much to inflate the balloon. A portion of the balloon must be left un-inflated to allow for expansion of the air in the balloon. Each twist in the formation of the balloon figure forces apportion of the air toward the un-inflated end of the balloon. It is fairly easy to adjust for too little air by simply

changing the size of portions of the balloon figure, but it is impossible to complete a figure if there is too much air in the balloon. Only practice teaches how much to inflate a balloon for each figure. No two people form the bubbles in the same manner. General rule, approximately 1/2 inch of balloon un-inflated for each twist required for the figure.

Body

What I will show or do.	Time Involved	What the students will do.	Time Involved
Introduce supplies needed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Small diameter balloons for balloon animals – sometimes referred to as skinnies, pencils or twist-eezs - Hand pump - Instruction book for balloon figures. 	1 min.		
Demonstrate stretching balloon.	1 min.		
Demonstrate using the pump.	1 min.		
Demonstrate making a parrot in a swing.	2 min.		
Demonstrate head and beak.	1 min.	Stretch and inflate balloons.	10 min.
Demonstrate body.	1 min.	Make head and beak.	2 min.
Swing body into swing.	2 min.	Make body.	6 min.
		Swing body into swing.	2 min.

Total time necessary to teach workshop: 35 minutes

Conclusion:

There is a universal fascination with balloon figure tying, and wherever you go people tend to be delighted as you transform simple balloons into a variety of colorful and lively figures.

children at the hospital and seniors at the nursing home and senior citizens center.

Balloon art is only limited by ones imagination. Have fun entertaining family and friends!

My skill of balloon tying can be used to promote 4-H at Mall Day and to entertain



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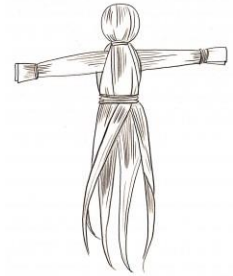
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Example of a Completed Workshop Outline

Workshop Title: Angel Cornhusk Doll Ornament

Subject matter to be taught: Construction of cornhusk doll using twisted craft paper.

Objective for teaching the subject (what will the participants learn?): Teens will learn to make an inexpensive Christmas ornament that they can teach to younger 4-H members at the local club level.



Outline of the Workshop

Introduction:

1. Cornhusk dolls brought many hours of joy to pioneer children. With little money these children had dozens of toys made from item found on the farm.
2. Crafted by early pioneer parents, father would whittle wagons, toy chairs and wooden dolls. Mom would be busy making rag dolls with seed eyes and cornhusk dolls.

Cornhusk dolls are made from the husk of an ear of corn. The corn silk was saved to make the hair. Each of these by-products was dried and fashioned into children’s toys.

3. We have seen resurgence in the interest in ancient crafts and art forms. Through the use of paper we are able to simulate the original art form of making cornhusk dolls.

Body

What I will show or do.	Time Involved	What the students will do.	Time Involved
Introduce supplies needed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 colors of paper caper - craft wire - hot/cool glue gun - Spanish moss - Kleenex - 1/8" ribbon - wide gathered lace - gold pipe cleaner 	3 min.		
Pass out supply packets. Introduce each item (to be sure it is there).		Double check their packet of supplies	2 min.

6" & 5" white twisted paper 8" color twisted paper 1 Kleenex (2) 6" ribbon pieces (2) 6" pieces of wire 3 ½" pieces of wide lace Pinch of dry Spanish moss 2 ½" pipe cleaner	3 min.		
Demonstrate untwisting the paper	1 min.	Untwist each piece of paper.	3 min.
Demonstrate forming the head.	1 min.	Form head	2 min.
Demonstrate forming the gown.	1 min.	Form and fit the gown.	3 min.
Demonstrate lace and ribbon application.	1 min.	Attach lace and ribbon bow.	3 min.
Demonstrate attaching hair (moss).	1 min.	Attach hair.	5 min.
Demonstrate attaching wings.	1 min.	Attach wings.	2 min.
Demonstrate attaching halo (pipe cleaner).	1 min.	Form and attach halo.	3 min.
Attach ribbon hanger.	1 min.	Attach ribbon hanger.	2 min.

Total time necessary to teach workshop: 39 minutes

Conclusion:

1. Great inexpensive ornament for approximately 30 cents.
2. Uses:
 - Ornament
 - Gift for family and friends
 - Package decoration
 - Or any thing else you can imagine
3. If you would like to learn more about making cornhusk dolls or early pioneer crafts visit the library and look under crafts or cornhusk dolls. There are many wonderful resources to read.
4. Project would be great activity for youth and adult groups. It is important to be careful with glue gun and to think about the manual dexterity of the group. Each doll takes about 30 minutes to construct.
5. This pioneer craft is a wonderful way to blend today with our past. I hope you have a happy holiday season.