

4th of July Crafts

Patriotic Rosette Pinwheels

Materials:

Scrapbook paper

Scissors

Glue

Ribbon

Button or other embellishment

**Directions:**

To form a pinwheel with a 6" diameter, cut 2 strips of 3" x 12" paper. Make precise ½" accordion-style folds, folding the paper back and forth like a fan. Connect the ends of the 2 accordion-folded strips with glue to form a lampshade-like cylinder. Pinch the top of the cylinder toward the middle and press down so that the bottom edge fans out. Cut a star out of contrasting paper and hot glue it to the middle of the pinwheel. Add a button or other embellishment to the center of the star. Attach ribbon to the back for hanging.

Patriotic Bracelet

Materials:

White hemp or cord
Red and blue beads
One round bead
Masking tape



Directions:

Cut one 70" piece of hemp and one 30" piece of hemp. Fold each piece in half and line up the two folded ends. Then make an overhand knot. Make sure the loop ends up being just big enough to fit over the large round bead.

Tape down the loop to your working surface, and tape down the ends of the two smaller pieces of hemp. You then can begin with the [square knot](#). To do this, take the right piece of hemp and thread it underneath the taped down pieces and over the left piece. Now take the left piece and thread down through the loop that was created on the right side. Pull the two ends tight, and you have completed the first knot.

Now repeat this, only start with the left side this time, threading it under the center pieces and over the right. Alternate starting sides for each knot. This will create a flat pattern.

Tie 6 knots, then un-tape the ends of the short pieces and thread on a red bead, a blue bead, and another red bead. Then tape down the center strings and continue with another 6 knots. Continue this pattern, stringing on the beads after every 6 knots. After the last set of beads, tie 6 more knots, and then thread on the round bead. Tie an overhand knot, getting as close as possible to the round bead. Trim the excess cord.

Patriotic Quilt Wall Hanging

This idea allows your residents to be part of creating holiday decorations. Depending on the size of the quilt and the number of participants, cut pieces of white fabric into 25 (10"x10") squares. Using fabric scraps, fabric paint, and other adornments, instruct your residents to decorate each square to represent an American icon or monument (Mt. Rushmore, Golden Gate Bridge, American Flag, White House, Statue of Liberty, etc.). Have a volunteer sew the squares together to make a beautiful patriotic quilt. You may also use paper and tie the squares together with yarn.



Patriotic Plant Pot

Materials:

1 unglazed terra cotta pot
Red, white and blue acrylic paint
Paintbrushes



Directions:

Paint the rim of the flowerpot white and the lower part of the pot blue (or paint the rim blue and the lower part white). Let the paint dry. A second coat may be needed, especially for the white paint. Paint white stars on the blue portion; paint red stripes on the white part. Let dry.

Pinwheel

Materials:

2 square pieces of red, white, or blue construction paper
Scissors
Hole punch
Push-pin
Un-sharpened pencil with an eraser
Markers or crayons



Directions:

Place the 2 pieces of paper together and fold diagonally once, so the papers resemble a triangle, and then again. Unfold the paper. Decorate 1 side of each sheet of paper.

Place the undecorated sides together, and then make four cuts along the fold lines of the four corners. The cuts should go about halfway up the paper. Punch four holes in the pinwheel at each corner, being careful not to punch into the cut lines.

Gently gather each of the four points with a hole to the center of the paper. Press the push- pin into the four gathered corners, to attach the pinwheel to the pencil's eraser.

Red, White, And Blue Twirlers**Materials:**

Red, white, and blue construction paper or craft foam
Marker
Scissors
String

**Directions:**

Trace a circle shape on the construction paper about the size of a small plate. Make a small hole in the center. With a marker, draw a spiral that starts $\frac{1}{2}$ " from the center (it keeps going around itself in circular pattern and gradually extends to the end). Cut along the line with scissors. Thread the string through the hole in the center and hang.

Luminaries**Materials:**

Star-shaped templates; various sizes
Tissue paper, red and blue
White paper lunch bags
Glue stick
Star-shaped stickers (optional)
Sand
Tea light or votive candles



Directions:

Use the templates to cut stars from red and blue tissue paper. Glue the stars to the insides of bags. Add star-shaped stickers. Fill each bag with 2"-3" of sand and place a tea light or votive candle into the sand. Place the luminaries outside and light the candles.

Mosaic Flag (This is a great group project.)**Materials:**

Magazines

Scissors

Large flag drawn on poster board

Directions:

Have your residents rip or cut out blues, whites, and reds from magazine pictures and backgrounds. Everyone glues the cut out colors onto the corresponding sections of the large flag. The different shades of the colors will give the flag a mosaic effect. For stars, you can use torn pieces of white paper.

Chenille Fireworks**Materials:**

Chenille stems in red, white, and blue

Scissors

Craft glue

Glitter in red, white, or blue

Clear thread

**Directions:**

For 1 firework you will need 6 chenille stems. Cut the stems in half. Dip both ends of each stem in craft glue, then into small bowls of colored glitter. Let the stems dry. Gather 11 stems together into a pile. Twist the 12th stem around the others. Bend and flare the stems to resemble a firework. Tie a length of thin clear thread onto the firework and hang.

4th of July Wreath

Materials:

Paper plate
Scissors (or pinking shears)
3 sheets of felt (red, white, and blue)



Directions:

Cut the felt into strips about 8" long. Cut the middle out of the paper plate. Tie the strips to the paper plate in a red, white, and blue pattern using a double knot.

Yarn Fireworks Pompoms

Materials:

Red, white, and blue
yarn Pipe cleaners
Scissors



Directions:

Measure out 4 yards of each color of yarn: red, white, and blue. Group the yarn together and fold them over in half, again and again and again until you have the desired length for the pompoms. Wrap the pipe cleaner around all the yarn in the center of the folds. Then take your second pipe cleaner and split the yarn and pull it through and around again to secure it. Then twist up the pipe cleaners together. Cut all the loops of yarn to make them into strings to form the Pompoms.

Uncle Sam Pin

Materials:

White craft foam
Scissors
Markers
Wooden craft spoon
Googly eyes
Cotton balls
Glue
Pin back



Directions:

Cut out a basic Uncle Sam-style hat (about 2" tall and 1" wide) from white craft foam. Use markers to color the brim blue and to draw red stripes on the top. Glue the hat to the handle of a wooden craft spoon. Glue on googly eyes and a cotton ball beard, then draw on a small L-shaped nose. Use glue to attach pin to back of Uncle Sam.

Patriotic Candlesticks**Materials:**

Small clay pots
Red, white, and blue acrylic paint
Hot glue gun

**Directions:**

Select 2 or 3 clay pots. Paint patriotic designs on the outside of the pots. Stack the pots on top of each other to create a unique candlestick. Use the hot glue gun to glue together.

Star Streamers**Materials:**

Small craft sticks
Red, white, or blue paint
Paintbrush
Glue
Ribbon
Sequins or other embellishments

**Directions:**

Paint 5 craft sticks for each star. Let dry. Glue sticks together to form a star. Decorate the front of the star with sequins and other embellishments. Attach ribbon to the back of the stars with glue, allowing them to hang below the star. Glue a loop of ribbon to the top for hanging.

Cinnamon Stick Firecrackers

Materials:

Cinnamon sticks

Red, white, and blue acrylic paint

Paintbrush

Twine

Glue



Directions:

Paint cinnamon sticks with patriotic colors and designs. Glue a short piece of twine to the top to create the fuse.