

## Thanksgiving Activities

**Football Grid Pool.** Create a 10" × 10" square grid on paper and invite residents to fill in their initials in the squares. Randomly assign numbers 0-9 along the top of the grid and along the left side of the grid. Write one team name across the top and one team name along the left side. Each number represents the last number of the score for the corresponding team. Award prizes at the end of each quarter to the person who has the correct last number of the score for each team.



### Turkey Baster

#### Relay Materials:

Turkey Baster  
Feathers  
Small Box



#### Directions:

Place the feathers in one spot on a table and place a small box to collect the feathers some distance away from the feathers. Give each resident a turkey baster. Have them move the feathers toward the box, using the turkey baster to blow the feathers. The winner is the person who gets the most feathers in their container.



**Gratitude Tree** Create a gratitude tree where your residents can share what they are most thankful for. Fill a vase with empty tree branches. Have residents write their thoughts on circles cut from Thanksgiving-themed scrapbooking paper. Punch a hole in the circles so they can be hung on branches. Display in a common area.

**Recipe Competition** Everyone's got their own family traditions and there are probably some unique family recipes that bring back fond memories of Thanksgiving for your residents. Let everyone submit their favorites and share them with the group to take a vote. The items that win will get made for the Thanksgiving feast.



**Parade** Since 1948 families have enjoyed watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on TV. Gather your residents around the TV and watch the giant balloons, floats, and bands march through the streets of New York.

**Pumpkin Bowling** Arrange a triangle of 10 empty plastic 1- or 2-liter bottles. Players take turns gently rolling a pumpkin into the pins, with three chances to knock them all down.



**Pumpkin Roll** Determine a starting line and a finish line. Set 2 pumpkins on their sides at the start and have the racers line up behind them. At "Go," each pair of challengers uses sturdy brooms to propel the pumpkins over the finish line.

### **Chopstick Pass-Along**

**Materials:**

- Chopsticks
- Unshelled walnut
- Acorn
- Cranberry
- Pea
- Small plate



**Directions:**

Give each player a set of chopsticks and place an unshelled walnut, an acorn, a cranberry, and a pea on a small plate next to the oldest player. The player begins by using the chopsticks to pass each object, from largest to smallest, to the person on her right, who receives it with chopsticks and passes it along to the next player. The object is to try to get all four objects back to the starting plate without dropping any of them. Players unable to manage the chopsticks can use a teaspoon instead.

**Thanksgiving Memory Game** Players sit in a circle. The first player starts by saying, "At Thanksgiving dinner I ate turkey." The next player must repeat this and add another dish, "At my Thanksgiving dinner I ate turkey and cranberry." The third player must repeat it and add yet another dish, "At Thanksgiving dinner I ate turkey, cranberry, and stuffing." The game continues with each player adding an item to the menu after first listing all the previous items in the exact order they were first said. If a player makes a mistake he drops out and the game continues until there is just one person left.

**Wall Football****Materials:**

Poster board  
Brown card stock  
White opaque paint marker  
Poster tacks  
Blindfold



**Directions:**

For the game pieces, first create a goal post from 2"-wide strips of poster board. (The uprights and the crossbar are each 20" long, and the post is 6" tall.) We attached ours to the wall using poster tack.

For the footballs, cut 5"-long shapes out of brown card stock. Find in the scrapbook aisle of your craft store—it looks like football leather. Use a white opaque paint marker to decorate and add players' names to the footballs. Put a blob of poster tack on the back of each one.

Players line up about 6' away from the goal. One at a time, each player is blindfolded, spun around 3 times by another person, and set loose to try to stick their football between the uprights. (No reaching out your empty hand to feel the wall.) Play several rounds with 3 points awarded for each field goal. Highest score wins.



**Name that Turkey Tune** Your guests won't mind singing for their supper with musical activity. Have them take turns crooning familiar songs, replacing all the lyrics with the word gobble. Choose a category and see who can be the first to guess the song.