

Arts and Crafts

Peace Pals Art Contest

Anytime before the end of June (to meet contest deadline)

Why: Connect campers (ages 5 – 16) to an international art contest that they can participate in again from home, and even involve their congregation.

Supplies: 5" x 7" pieces of paper or canvas, various art supplies depending on the interests of the campers, camera and Internet access to submit campers' work for review

How: Use the information in the Peace Partner Packet to help campers create a work of art to enter in the Peace Pals International Art Contest. The message, "May Peace Prevail on Earth" should be visible on the page. Visit their website for this year's unique theme. See the Peace Partner Packet for direct website links and other information.

Pine Cone Pineapples

Best for Day 1

Why: The pineapple has a long history as a symbol of hospitality. When the sea captains of New England returned to the colonies, they would unload their cargo and then would go home, stopping outside their homes to spear a pineapple on a fence post, indicating a safe return from the sea. The pineapple was an invitation for friends to visit, share food and drink, and listen to tales of the voyage. The pineapple is grown abundantly in Hawaii, where our word for the day, *aloha*, originates.

Supplies: Pine cones, yellow acrylic paint, paintbrush/sponge, green construction paper, scissors, small straw or other tool to curl the construction paper, tape, hot glue (optional)

How: Clean off the pine cones (you can get rid of bugs by putting them into the oven at 350 degrees for about 10-15 minutes and letting them cool). Coat the pine cone with yellow paint. You just need to paint the outside tips of the pine cone. Set aside the painted pine cones to dry.

Cut the green construction paper into grasslike strips. Using a small straw, start curling in the tips of the leaves. Making the leaves different heights will make it more interesting. Bunch your leaves together so they curve outward from the center and use clear tape to hold the bunch together. Insert the green paper in the top of the dried pine cone. It may be necessary to hot glue it.

Paper Plate Dove

Best for Day 3

Why: The use of a dove and olive branch as a symbol of peace originated with the early Christians, who portrayed the act of baptism accompanied by a dove holding an olive branch in its beak. A dove is also a symbol of the Holy Spirit as it appeared at Jesus' baptism.

Supplies: Cheap white paper plates, markers, scissors, tape, string or ribbon

How: Cut the plate into thirds with the outside pieces becoming the wings, and the middle becoming the body of the dove. On the back of the center part, draw the dove's body. The easiest way to draw it is to make a shape like a snowman with a small top circle (head), a larger middle circle (body), and instead of a third circle, you can simply extend two lines outward to the edge to form tail feathers. Cut on your lines, and then assemble like a dove with one of the big wings on each side. Secure the wings on the back of the dove with tape. Draw on some simple feet, a beak, and eyes with markers. Tape a piece of string or ribbon on the back of each wing so you can hang your dove. You can also use googly-eyes or other creative additions.

Extras

Lots of Knots Friendship Bracelet

Best for Days 2 and 5

Why: Friendship bracelets are made to share with friends and remind us of our connection to other people.

Supplies: Multiple colors of embroidery floss, safety pin

How: Grab three or four (or more) colors of embroidery floss. (The more colors you choose the thicker your bracelet will be.) For each color, cut a length of string about two to three arm lengths long. Gather all of your strings together. Find the middle of the strings and fold in half.

Tie a knot to make a loop. Make sure your loop is big enough for your strings to go back through later. This is the loop you'll send your strings back through to tie it onto your wrist when you're finished. Slip the loop onto a safety pin. Fasten the safety pin to a stable surface. **Tip:** To take your project outside or on the road, pin it to your pants!

Gather all but one of your strings together in one hand. Keep one string off to the side.

A - Create a loop with your single string off to one side.

B - Pull the end of the same string around the other strings and through the loop.

C - Pull your string tight.

D - Holding all of the other strings taut, pull the single string upward until your knot reaches the top.

Repeat steps A-D over and over again. When you're ready to change colors, simply return your single string to the other strings. Pull out a single string of the next color you'd like to use and continue tying knots (following steps A-D). Check the length as you go to decide how long you want your bracelet to be.

When you're finished, tie a knot at the end using all of the strings. Leave a few inches of string at the end and cut off the excess. Remove the bracelet from the safety pin. To tie, pull the excess string through the loop and tie a knot.

BTW: Although it would make quite a thick bracelet, you could use one color for each keyword (*aloha, ubuntu, etc.*)

Stained-Glass Cookies

Best for Day 3

Why: Broken candies becomes beautiful cookies.

Supplies: Rolling pins, cookie sheets, aluminum foil, cooking spray, colored sugar candies, sealable plastic bags, hammer, sugar cookie dough, oven, cookie cutters, knives, spatulas

How: Let campers help unwrap and divide candies, placing each color in its own plastic bag. Seal the bags and then crush the candy with a hammer. Save the crushed candy for later. Roll cookie dough out to 1/8- to 1/4-inch thick. Cut out larger cookie shape and then cut out a small shape inside the cookie so that the cookie has a hole in the center. You could do hearts, doves, peace signs, or other simple shapes. Move cookie to a cookie sheet that already has a layer of aluminum foil that has been lightly sprayed with cooking spray. Once all of one group's cookies are on a cookie sheet have them fill the holes in the cookies with crushed candy pieces. Bake the cookies for 6-8 minutes till golden brown. Allow to cool and remove from the foil. Place in bags to be given to other campers at the next meal.

As the cookies bake, ask the campers what had to be broken in order to make these cookies. Invite them to wonder about brokenness and how it can be a good thing.

Make Your Own Mezuzah

Best for Days 5 and 6

Why: Most Jewish homes have a mezuzah on their doorpost. These are boxes containing scrolls with the *Shema*, Judaism's central prayer, written on them. A mezuzah is hung on the right side of the doorpost and is there to remind the inhabitants that the home is a holy place. The *Shema* includes the commandment that Jesus quotes in the scriptures for these days: Deuteronomy 6:5—*You*

Extras

shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. In this activity, campers make a mezuzah of their own that also includes the second commandment Jesus gives in Mark 12:31—*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

Supplies: Boxes or tubes for the mezuzah—jewelry boxes (these can be ordered in quantity online), pill bottles, short lengths of PVC pipe, or anything that the scroll can fit into that is longer than it is wide; materials to decorate the outside—paint, markers, colored tape, stickers; paper cut to size to fit rolled up into the mezuzah (parchment-look paper would be especially nice); pre-printed copies of the text for younger campers or those who have difficulty writing; markers; scotch tape

How: First, decorate the outside of the mezuzah. Make it as beautiful as possible. Traditionally, a mezuzah will have the Hebrew letter *shin* (ש), the first letter of the *Shema*, on the outside, so you might want to include this in the decorations. Next, make the scroll. It is possible to include the *Shema* in Hebrew, but since the second part of our scroll, the quote from Mark, was not originally in Hebrew, you probably want to do it all in English. Have students copy the verses onto their scrolls:

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Have the campers roll the scrolls up and insert them into their mezuzah. If necessary, tape the container shut.

Origami Cranes

Best for Day 5

Why: Teach campers how to create cranes, symbols of peace they can continue making and share with others

Supplies: Origami paper, or paper cut into squares

How: Use the directions in the Peace Packet to create your cranes. Multiple Daily Activities across the age groups include making cranes. See how

this practice best fits your camp's schedule and communal life.

Peace Sign Dream Catcher

Best for any Day

Why: The peace sign was designed in the 1950s for a British peace movement group. In this activity, campers can make their own peace sign as a reminder of their experience with the Peace Works camp theme.

Supplies: Embroidery hoops or other metal or wood hoops, 5-8" in diameter (these could also be made from metal clothes hangers), sturdy wire, wire cutters, yarn, washi, or colored duct tape; beads; feathers; ribbon

How: It might be helpful to cut wire to size ahead of time: cut two pieces for each dream catcher that are a little larger than the diameter of the hoop. One will go across the center, and the other will be bent in half to create the "legs" of the symbol. Attach the wire "legs" to the center wire piece by twisting them around it or by using duct tape. Attach the center wire piece and the "legs" to the hoop using duct tape or twisting. Use the yarn or tape to wrap the hoop and the center symbol. This step will help to keep the center symbol attached, so don't be stingy! Once the entire hoop and symbol are wrapped, add streamers at the bottom by tying ribbon or yarn to the bottom section, and attach beads or feathers.