

2018 Harford District Cub Scout Day Camp

soon to be

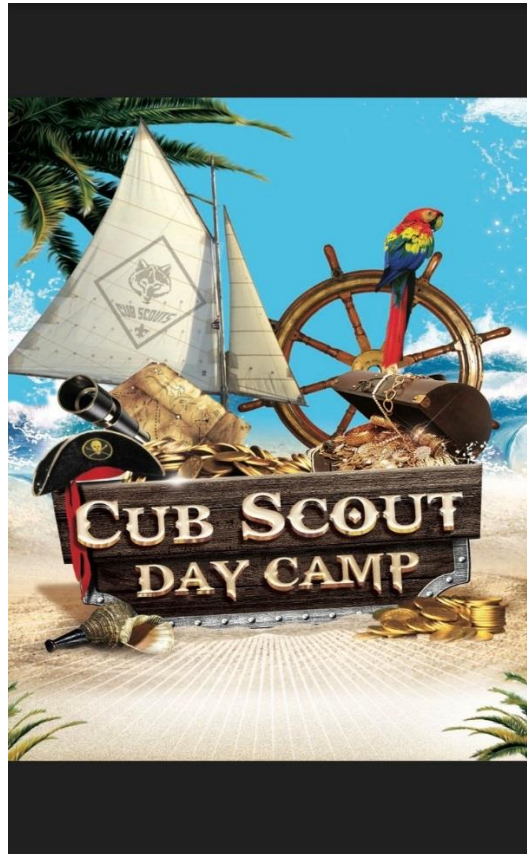
CAMP MUDDY RIVER

June 24-29, 2018

Cub Buccaneers, Adventures on the High Seas

A Pirate's Booty Bag

(leatherwork/paracord)



Station Volunteer's Guide

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time;
They have the heart. And YOU are the heart of our camp.
Thank you!



Please, please read this guide!

What is being covered at most stations is important so that the scouts earn the correct achievements toward rank or advancement. Some stations are JUST for fun, though and are not designed for earning anything.

HOW YOU present the material is not set in stone and can be presented in any manner that best suits you, as LONG AS THE REQUIREMENTS ARE MET FOR THE SCOUT.

.....in other words...

If you find a better way to accomplish the requirements or if the method we have outlined doesn't seem to be working...please feel free to change it! *This is only a guide...do what works best for you and the scouts coming to your station.*

One other thing to keep in mind - some stations will be visited by all ranks. That means you may have 6 year olds through 11 year olds and may have to simplify or intensify the methods to meet the skills and knowledge of all the scouts.

Thanks again - we are glad to have you as part of Harford Day Camp!

Station Procedures

- *Read your schedule and BE PREPARED!*
- Monday: stations begin at 10:15am; Tues-Fri: stations begin at 9:15am
- Usually 2 dens at a time (max 24 youth),,,,,but there could be more
- Greet dens as they arrive. Ask for their cheer!!!
- It is very important that you start and end on time!
- Each time limit is only 45 minutes. Late arrivals CANNOT stay late; it interferes with the overall schedule. If available, they can come back at a free time.
- Execute the station with energy and enthusiasm! Let the scouts do as much for themselves as possible. It doesn't need to be perfect, they just need to Do Their Best!
- Remember the Alamo, um BEADS!! One bead/scout/participation. (*Beads can be given to the den leader for distribution.*)
- Take a breath, then prepare for your next group.

• *Last station of the day*

Organize station items in the bag/container provided and store where directed. In case of inclement weather, take your station items to the nearest shelter where directed.

Complete a Station Evaluation (inside front cover). Return to the Admin tower or the Crouse Building.

*****Last station of the week*****

- Dispose of anything no longer useable: please recycle when appropriate.
- Inventory your station (See the inventory sheet in the front pocket of the station guide)
- Return all items that you can to Crouse/trailer staff.
- You are ALWAYS invited to help pack up the camp!

Webelos I:

Paracord Survival Bracelet

Brief introduction to paracord and use of knot typing will make up this section. The station will be visited by Webelos I dens. Each Scout will complete a paracord survival bracelet project.



Materials: 8 foot length of paracord, buckle, lighter, ruler, small needlenose pliers, scissors.

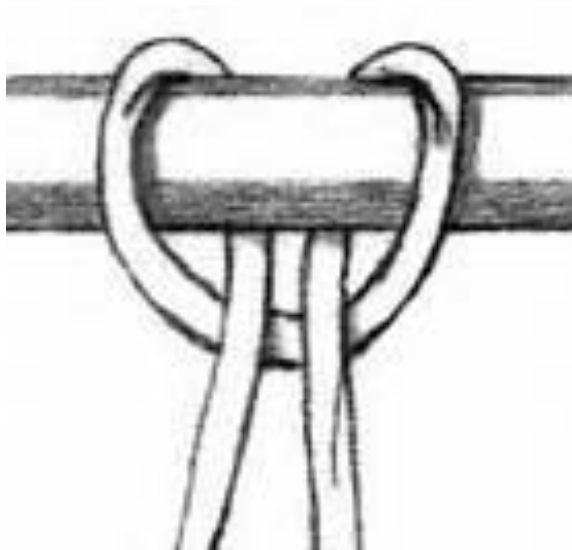
Directions:

Begin with an 8 foot length of paracord. Fold in half to make equal sides.

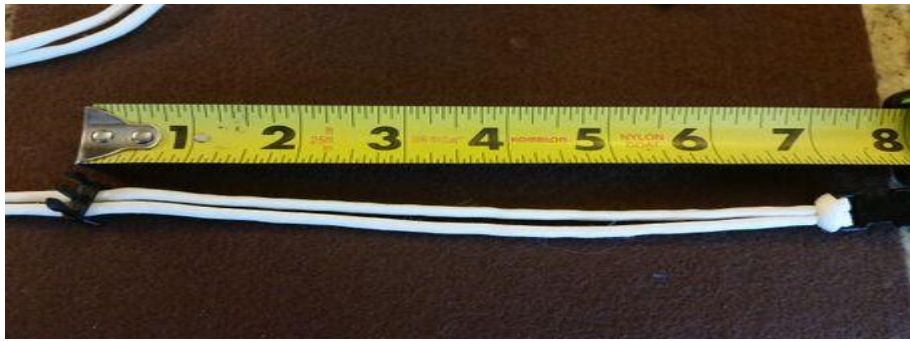
Separate the two pieces of the buckle.

Feed the cord through the end of the buckle.

Form a "lark's head" knot on the "female" buckle end and pull tight.



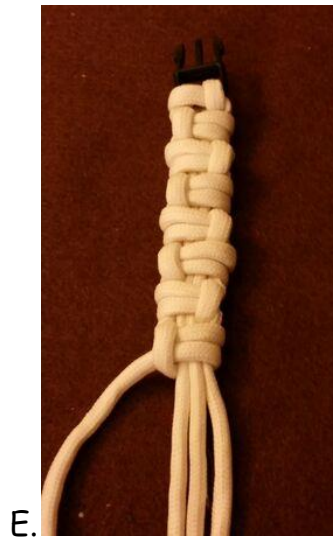
Pull ends of paracord through the "male" end of the buckle to the length of 8 or 9". Whichever will fit most closely to the Scout's wrist size with some give.



Work from the "male" end of the buckle. Use the modified half hitch to knot through the bracelet. 3 lengths of paracord should be in the middle at all times. Alternate the knot from right side to left side.



Continue all the way down to the bottom, making knots very tight as you go.



Turn over and cut ends.

Station Volunteers - use lighter to singe ends so the waxy film melts and can stick to the body of the bracelet. Use mallet or ruler to press ends down into other strands so it sticks.



Background that may be helpful....

(for your own understanding)

History

Leather working is one of the oldest skills known to man as animal hides had many uses for primitive humans. Artistic leather working is a far more recent development and is generally considered to have originated in Spain. Brought to the New World with the Conquistadors, it eventually moved north and became popular in the southwestern U.S. To this day, the most popular style of leather carving is the traditional Western floral style.

Stamping

Generally the most popular type of leather craft for use with groups is stamping. Basically the design is pounded into the leather with a stamp and a mallet. Stamps are available in a wide variety of designs from geometric patterns to pictures. Stamping is very easy to do with little or no experience.

Carving

Carving leather is much more challenging and requires a fair amount of dedication to master. It involves cutting the design into the leather, then using special tools to stamp the patterns desired. Because it has a fairly steep learning curve and requires the use of a very sharp knife, carving is not recommended for most youth groups, although it may be suitable for older teens.

Leather

Leather is preserved by a process called tanning and different types of tanning give the leather different properties. *Leather that is to be stamped or carved should be vegetable tanned* (sometimes called tooling leather). Oil tanned leathers will generally take stamp impressions very poorly.

Casing

Casing is a term that has its origins before the plastic age. Leather was soaked then placed inside a case (typically a small suitcase type of thing) - hence the term casing. These days most casing is simply done by wiping both sides of the leather with a wet sponge. Properly cased tanning leather will accept stamp imprints very well.

Use a moistened sponge to wet the leather on both sides. Do not soak it. The leather should be slightly moist throughout. Once the leather dries to near its original color, it is properly "cased". This process takes some time and you may find it helpful to case the leather ahead of time (no more than a few hours) and once it has returned to its original color place it in an airtight bag. Then you simply distribute the leather when the group is ready to begin.

Stamping Tools

There are three basic types of stamps commonly used by groups for stamping. Pictorial Stamps, sometimes called 3D stamps. These are the most popular for youth groups as each is a complete design in itself. The average size of these stamps is 1 inch x 1 inch. These are the least expensive type of stamp. Pictorial stamps have an interchangeable handle (on left in photo) which does not come with the stamp. Typically most group crafting setups will include a handle for each person and a variety of stamps that are shared among them.



Letter and Number Sets

These are basically the same as the pictorial stamps with one handle included with each set. These are available in several styles and sizes ranging from 1/4 inch to 1 inch in height. Lettering is best avoided with younger children as it requires some patience to do properly, and looks rather bad if not done properly.

Carving Stamps

Carving stamps cover a broad range of designs ranging from geometric to small designs such as leaves and flowers, footprints, and musical notes. Although we call them carving stamps, many shapes are also useful for stamping patterns. Their imprints are generally smaller and they are more expensive than pictorial stamps, but the handle is built into the tool. For group work choose some that make interesting borders when used repeatedly or that can be combined to make a larger design. Some popular categories are veiners, border, camouflage, seeders, geometric, flower, leaf, sunburst, and miscellaneous shapes.



Stamping Tool Care

With proper care your stamps will last a lifetime.

1. Never hit stamps with a metal mallet or hammer. This will chip the plating and make them rust easier. Use of a wood, rawhide, or polymer mallet is essential to preserve your stamps.
2. Never use stamps on anything but leather.
3. Never put stamps away wet.
4. Always store stamps in a dry area.
5. Avoid dropping stamps whenever possible.



Mallets

As mentioned above, metal hammers should never be used on stamping tools. Although there are many suitable mallets on the market, simple wooden ones are the most cost effective and the mallet of choice for group use. Normally you will want a mallet for each person.

Work Surface

A firm work surface is vital to get good stamp impressions. It will also protect your furniture from over zealous stamping which may go right through the leather. Generally the heavier this is the less noisy it will be when stamping.



Samplers

I try not to discourage children from using the stamps in any design they like, however those under 12 years old will generally just turn the leather into an unsightly mess without some guidance. Creating a sample or two using your available tools to show some of the patterns possible will usually cause them to give a bit more thought to what they are stamping rather than just selecting stamps they like and stamping them

willy nilly all over the leather. This close up of the above sampler shows several easy patterns that were made with just 2 stamping tools (veiner and camouflage tools).

In general, samplers for groups should only have easy to copy designs.



Finishing

For working with groups, always choose a water based stain and finish. If you are on a very tight time frame consider using an [All In One stain and finish](#). Keep in mind that leather is skin and many leather stains will stain your skin as well, so be sure to test this beforehand. Dyes that stain skin should be applied by the group leader (you can wear rubber gloves if needed). This will prevent a lot of mess. The best method for applying water based stains and finishes are cheap sponges cut into applicator size pieces and dampened slightly before use.

