

OUTDOOR LEARNING & CREATIVE ARTS AIDE HANDBOOK



Three Trails
CAMP & RETREAT CENTER





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ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

At The Salvation Army Three Trails Camp, we are continually seeking ways to enhance the camp experience and provide meaningful opportunities for our campers to grow, learn, and connect with nature. In line with our commitment to the Second Mile Initiative, we have introduced the Outdoor Learning & Creative Arts Aide position to our camp staff.

This new role supports our mission by offering campers a more enriched, hands-on learning environment where they can engage with nature and creativity. The Outdoor Learning & Creative Arts Aide facilitates outdoor educational activities, nature exploration, and creative craft projects, ensuring that every camper has the opportunity to connect with the outdoors in a safe, supervised, and inspiring way.

By adding this position, we are taking a proactive step to deepen our campers' experiences by creating intentional, guided opportunities for self-expression, environmental stewardship, and teamwork. This role also aligns with our goal of going above and beyond for our campers; providing them with memorable, educational moments that foster personal growth and a lasting love for the outdoors.

Outdoor Learning Center (OLC)

- Setup and maintain the nature exploration centers in the OLC.
- Feed and care for catch and release animals in the OLC as needed.
- Maintain clean, organized, and safe enclosures.
- Guide campers in learning about nature throughout their time in the OLC.
- Introduce campers to the animals and teach basic care and responsibility.

Craft and Outdoor Programming

- Lead daily craft activities during camper free time.
- Create plans for weekly activities, including nature walks, animal care demonstrations, outdoor activities, and creative crafts.

- Design activities that are age-appropriate, engaging, and aligned with the camp's spiritual and educational values.
- Encourage campers in outdoor play and exploration in nature.
- Encourage activities like scavenger hunts, outdoor journaling, birdwatching, and guided nature hikes.
- Emphasize teamwork and curiosity while exploring God's creation.
- Be flexible with plans that can be adjusted based on weather or group needs.
- Utilize available craft supplies and seek donations before purchasing additional items.
- Work with the Youth Department to order new supplies as needed.



Craft Guidance & Interaction Tips

- Offer instructions while allowing creative freedom.
- Encourage campers with positive reinforcement and praise their effort over perfection.
- Ask open-ended questions like "What inspired your design?" or "How did you come up with that idea?"
- Provide a mix of structured and open-ended crafts.
- Create a relaxed and joyful atmosphere; play music, use outdoor spaces when possible, and celebrate camper creations.

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Craft Closet Organization

- Keep craft materials clearly labeled and sorted by category (e.g., paper products, adhesives, markers/paint, beads, recycled materials).
- Designate areas for in-use supplies, donations, and items to be restocked.
- Maintain a digital or written inventory log to track supply levels.
- Return all items to their proper place after use and encourage campers and staff to do the same.
- Do weekly cleanups and discard dried-out or unusable materials.

Bead Program Management

- Oversee The Salvation Army Outdoor Bead Program: prepare materials (beads, dog tags and lanyards) for bead activities, help in distributing the materials and keep supplies organized.
- Maintain a log of inventory and coordinate with the Youth Department for additional bead orders.

Collaboration and Communication

- Communicate with the Recreation Aide, Assistant Camp Director and Youth Department regularly about camper engagement and activity success.



Crew Management Responsibilities

As an Outdoor Learning Aide, one of your key responsibilities is ensuring the well-being of all animals on site while guiding and managing crew members assigned to assist in their care. This includes daily tasks, safety oversight, and modeling responsible, humane treatment of animals.

Daily Duties:

- Oversee feeding, watering, and habitat maintenance for all animals, ensuring tasks are completed to standard and on schedule.
- Assign roles and responsibilities to crew members based on their abilities and experience.
- Monitor the health and behavior of animals daily; report any concerns to the supervisor immediately.
- Ensure animal enclosures remain clean, secure.
- Maintain organization of all animal care areas, food and supplies.

Crew Member Supervision:

- Provide clear instructions and hands-on demonstrations when assigning animal care tasks.
- Encourage responsibility and empathy among crew members by modeling respectful interactions with all animals.
- Promote teamwork and accountability by checking in regularly and offering guidance or redirection as needed.
- Monitor safety at all times; for both animals and people. Crew members must be reminded of proper hygiene, handling techniques, and calm behavior around animals.

Record Keeping:

- Ensure crew members record completed tasks and any animal observations in the daily log.
- Confirm that all logs are accurate, up to date, and maintained in the OLC.

Training & Expectations:

- Train new crew members on animal care routines and expectations.
- Reinforce that animal care is a top priority and that consistency, gentleness, and attention to detail are essential.
- Celebrate improvements, effort, and growth in both the animals' well-being and crew member skills.

CRITTER CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Our Outdoor Learning Center is home to a small group of animals that serve as valuable learning companions for our campers. It is essential that each animal is cared for

with consistency, gentleness, and attention to their specific needs.

Chickens

Daily Care Tasks:

- Feed chickens with approved poultry feed (located in labeled bins).
- Refill clean water containers and check for debris or contamination.
- Collect eggs gently and store them in designated area.
- Ensure coop doors are opened in the morning and securely closed at night to protect from predators.
- Spot-clean the coop daily, removing any soiled bedding or waste as needed.

Weekly Tasks:

- Restock bedding in nesting boxes.
- Clean feeders and waterers thoroughly with mild soap and rinse well.
- Check for signs of illness (lethargy, feather loss, irregular droppings) and report any concerns.

Camper Interaction Tips:

- Allow campers to gently collect eggs or observe chickens up close.
- Teach campers the purpose of chicken care, what they eat, and why they lay eggs.
- Always supervise camper interaction to ensure safety for both animals and children.

Chicks

Daily Care Tasks:

- Check that the heat lamp is functioning and temperature is appropriate (90–95°F for the first week, decreasing by 5°F each week).
- Feed starter feed and refill water dishes twice daily.
- Observe for signs of distress (piling, chirping excessively, or not eating).

Weekly Tasks:

- Change bedding (pine shavings preferred) and sanitize the brooder area.
- Monitor chick growth and socialization.

Camper Interaction Tips:

- Limit direct handling; chicks are delicate and should only be handled under supervision.
- Encourage campers to observe quietly and discuss growth and changes.
- Introduce chick care as a lesson in responsibility and gentleness.

Rabbits

Daily Care Tasks:

- Feed rabbits a mix of pellets and fresh hay; provide small portions of fruits/vegetables (carrot tops, lettuce, etc.).
- Refill water bottles and clean when necessary.
- Spot-clean cages. Remove droppings.

Weekly Tasks:

- Deep-clean enclosure and sanitize water bottles and feeders.
- Brush rabbits gently if shedding, and inspect for signs of injury or illness.

Camper Interaction Tips:

- Allow supervised petting sessions; demonstrate how to gently approach and handle rabbits.
- Do not allow rabbits to be on the ground outside.
- Share facts about rabbit care, their diets, and natural behaviors.
- Ensure campers wash hands before and after interaction.

CAMPER CRAFT ACTIVITIES

1. Painted Kindness Rocks

Supplies:

- Smooth flat rocks
- Acrylic paint or paint pens
- Paintbrushes
- Water cups and paper towels
- Sealant (Mod Podge or clear spray)

Instructions:

1. Wash and dry your rocks.
2. Paint a base coat (optional). Let dry.
3. Use small brushes or paint pens to add designs, words, or pictures.
4. Let paint dry completely.
5. Apply a clear sealant to protect your artwork and make it weather-resistant.
6. Hide around camp for others to find!

2. Friendship Bracelets (Braided with Beads)

Supplies:

- Embroidery floss, hemp cord, or thin rope
- Beads (plastic, wooden, or alphabet beads)
- Scissors
- Tape or clipboard to hold the bracelet in place

Instructions:

1. Cut 3–5 strands about 24 inches long. Tie a knot at one end.
2. Tape or clip the knot to your table or clipboard.
3. Begin braiding (or use other patterns like the chevron or spiral).
4. Slide beads onto strands as you go.
5. When finished, tie another knot and trim the ends.
6. Gift to a friend or wear with pride!

3. Leaf Rubbing Art

Supplies:

- Fresh or dry leaves (flat and detailed work best)
- White paper
- Crayons (with paper peeled off)
- Tape (optional to hold the leaf in place)

Instructions:

1. Place a leaf vein-side up on a hard surface.
2. Lay a piece of paper over the leaf.

3. Use the side of a crayon to gently rub over the paper.
4. Watch the leaf's shape and veins appear like magic!
5. Try different colors or layer multiple leaves.

4. Pinecone Bird Feeder

Supplies:

- Pinecones
- Peanut butter or Crisco (for allergies)
- Birdseed
- Plastic knife or craft stick
- String or yarn

Instructions:

1. Tie string around the top of the pinecone for hanging.
2. Use the knife or stick to coat the pinecone with peanut butter.
3. Roll the sticky cone in birdseed until fully covered.
4. Hang from a tree branch and watch birds visit!

5. God's Eye (Ojo de Dios)

Supplies:

- 2 sticks (popsicle sticks or twigs)
- Yarn (various colors)
- Scissors

Instructions:

1. Cross two sticks in an "X" and tie them together with yarn.
2. Wrap the yarn over one stick, then around the next, continuing in a circular pattern.
3. Change colors by tying new yarn pieces to the end of the current one.
4. Keep wrapping until you reach the ends of the sticks.
5. Tie off the yarn and leave a loop for hanging.

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6. Twig Picture Frames

Supplies:

- Cardboard rectangles (frame-shaped with the center cut out)
- Small twigs/sticks
- Hot glue guns or tacky glue
- String or ribbon (for hanging)
- Optional: Paint, decorations, camp photos

Instructions:

1. Arrange and glue twigs to cover the front of the cardboard frame.
2. Trim twigs to fit edges and layer them for a rustic look.
3. Decorate with paint, feathers, beads, or nature items.
4. Tape or glue a photo behind the frame opening.
5. Add a loop of string to hang or prop up for display.

7. Nature Collage

Supplies:

- Cardstock or recycled cardboard base
- Glue (white or stick)
- Nature items (leaves, petals, seeds, twigs, grass, etc.)
- Optional: Markers or crayons for background

Instructions:

1. Go on a short nature walk to collect materials.
2. Arrange items on your base to form a pattern, picture, or abstract design.
3. Glue everything down securely.
4. Let dry flat to prevent curling.
5. Optional: Title or label your collage and add your name.

8. Wood Slice Painting

Supplies:

- Wood slices (pre-cut tree rounds or store-bought)
- Acrylic paint and brushes
- Pencil (for sketching design first)
- Paint pens (optional for detail work)
- Sealant (Mod Podge or clear spray)

Instructions:

1. Lightly sketch your design on the wood slice.
2. Paint your image — camp logos, animals, or inspirational words are great!

3. Let dry, then go over details with paint pens if desired.
4. Seal with Mod Podge or a clear coat.
5. Display or gift it as a memory of camp.

9. Camp Memory Jars

Supplies:

- Small jars with lids (plastic or glass)
- Nature finds (pebbles, mini pinecones, pressed flowers, etc.)
- Ribbon, twine, or fabric scraps (for decorating lids)
- Paper and markers (to write notes or dates)
- Glue dots or labels (optional)

Instructions:

1. Fill the jar with tiny souvenirs from your camp experience.
2. Write a small note or memory and roll it up to include inside.
3. Decorate the lid with fabric, ribbon, or stickers.
4. Label it with your name and the camp year.
5. Take home as a keepsake to remember your time at camp.

10. Air-Dry Clay Nature Stamps

Supplies:

- Air-dry clay
- Rolling pins or cups
- Leaves, flowers, or textured nature items
- Toothpicks or plastic knives
- Wax paper or craft mats
- Optional: Paint and sealant

Instructions:

1. Roll clay into discs or flat squares on wax paper.
2. Press leaves or textured items into the surface to make impressions.
3. Use toothpicks to carve initials, dates, or designs.
4. Let dry overnight.
5. Optional: Paint once dry and seal for shine.



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11. Tie-Dye Bandanas or T-Shirts

Supplies:

- 100% cotton bandanas or T-shirts
- Tie-dye kits (dye bottles, gloves, rubber bands)
- Plastic table covers
- Zip-top bags (1 per camper)
- Water access for rinsing

Instructions:

1. Fold or twist your fabric into a desired pattern (spiral, accordion, bullseye, etc.) and secure with rubber bands.
2. Put on gloves and apply dye to sections. Flip to cover both sides.
3. Place the dyed item in a zip-top bag and let sit 6–8 hours or overnight.
4. Rinse in cold water until clear, then wash separately in warm water.
5. Wear your colorful creation at camp!



12. Beaded Keychains

Supplies:

- Key rings or carabiners
- Pony beads or wooden beads
- Lacing cord, plastic craft lace, or suede string
- Scissors
- Optional: Alphabet beads for personalization

Instructions:

1. Cut a length of string and fold in half. Loop it through the key ring.
2. Add beads to each side, creating a pattern or name.
3. Tie knots at the ends to hold beads in place.
4. Trim any extra string.
5. Clip it to your backpack or water bottle!

13. Nature Tic-Tac-Toe

Supplies:

- Small drawstring fabric bags or cardboard squares
- Twigs (for the board grid)
- Small rocks and acorns, shells, or pinecones (two kinds for game pieces)
- Hot glue or tacky glue
- Paint or markers (optional)

Instructions:

1. Glue twigs to a flat surface to make a tic-tac-toe board, or draw one with marker.
2. Choose 5 of each game piece (rocks vs. acorns, etc.) and decorate if desired.
3. Store everything in the drawstring bag for easy travel.
4. Play in cabins, during free time, or by the campfire!

14. Pressed Flower Bookmarks

Supplies:

- Fresh or dried pressed flowers and leaves
- Clear contact paper or laminating sheets
- Cardstock
- Scissors and hole punch
- Ribbon or twine

Instructions:

1. Cut cardstock into bookmark-sized strips.
2. Arrange pressed flowers on one side.
3. Carefully cover with contact paper or laminate both sides.
4. Punch a hole at the top and tie a ribbon.
5. Use in your camp journal or take home as a gift.

15. Campfire Charcoal Sketching

Supplies:

- Clean, cooled campfire charcoal pieces
- White or light-colored drawing paper
- Smocks or old shirts
- Hairspray (to set the drawing, optional)

Instructions:

1. Use charcoal like a pencil to sketch on paper—camp scenes, animals, or free drawing.
2. Smudge with your fingers or a tissue for shading.
3. Optional: Lightly spray with hairspray to seal the charcoal and prevent smearing.
4. Display on a camp art board or take home!

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16. Fairy or Gnome Houses (Nature Dioramas)

Supplies:

- Small cardboard boxes or bases (like shoebox lids)
- Sticks, moss, bark, acorns, stones
- Hot glue or tacky glue
- Bottle caps, buttons, small nature trinkets
- Optional: Twine, fabric scraps, tiny figures

Instructions:

1. Use the box or base to begin building your house.
2. Use sticks for walls, bark for roofs, moss for carpets, etc.
3. Add fun touches like bottle cap tables or acorn bowls.
4. Let it dry completely before moving.
5. Display them as a mini village at camp!



17. Camp Lantern Jars

Supplies:

- Mason jars or clear plastic cups
- Battery-operated tea lights
- Tissue paper or colored cellophane
- Mod Podge or watered-down glue
- Foam brushes
- Twine, ribbon, or stickers for decoration

Instructions:

1. Tear tissue paper into small pieces.
2. Use Mod Podge to glue the tissue all over the outside of the jar.
3. Let dry, then decorate with twine or stickers.
4. Place a tea light inside for a beautiful glow at night!
5. Use during campfire devotions or as cabin night lights.

18. Nature Weaving Boards

Supplies:

- Cardboard rectangles
- Scissors or hole punch
- Yarn or string
- Leaves, grass, feathers, flowers, pine needles

Instructions:

1. Cut small slits along the top and bottom of the cardboard.
2. Wrap yarn up and down, sliding it into the slits to create a loom.
3. Weave nature items over and under the yarn.
4. Fill the board with different textures and colors.
5. Hang up for a natural art gallery display.

19. Painted Stick Sculptures

Supplies:

- Straight sticks or twigs
- Acrylic paint and brushes
- Hot glue
- Wood bases or rocks (to stand them up)
- Optional: Yarn, washi tape, feathers

Instructions:

1. Clean and paint sticks in bold or patterned designs.
2. Arrange and glue them upright into a wood base or rock.
3. Add yarn wrapping, feathers, or washi tape if desired.
4. Let dry and place around camp as art installations.
5. Teens can create larger, abstract group versions.

20. Bottle Cap Wind Chimes

Supplies:

- Bottle caps (metal or plastic)
- Hammer and nail (for adult use)
- String or fishing line
- Small branch, hanger, or stick for top bar
- Beads, bells, or washers (optional)

Instructions:

1. Adult - hammer a small hole in each bottle cap.
2. Tie string through each and attach to a stick or hanger.
3. Add beads or bells between caps for sound.
4. Tie a string to the top for hanging.
5. Hang from a tree branch and enjoy the breeze!

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21. Watercolor Resist Art with Nature

Supplies:

- Watercolor paper or cardstock
- White crayons or oil pastels
- Watercolor paints and brushes
- Water cups and paper towels
- Optional: Leaves or stencils for design tracing

Instructions:

1. Use a white crayon or oil pastel to draw a nature-themed design or write an inspirational message.
2. Paint over the drawing with watercolor—your image will “resist” the paint and show through!
3. Let dry completely.
4. Frame with construction paper or clip to a display board.

22. Paracord Survival Bracelets

Supplies:

- Paracord in assorted colors (8–10 feet per bracelet)
- Buckles or key rings
- Scissors
- Lighter (for staff use only to melt ends)
- Optional: Instructional printouts for cobra weave

Instructions:

1. Fold your paracord in half and attach the buckle.
2. Follow a simple cobra weave pattern, pulling tight as you go.
3. Trim the ends and melt slightly to seal.
4. Teens can personalize with colors or knots.
5. Use for hiking or emergency kits!

23. Recycled Magazine Bead Jewelry

Supplies:

- Old magazines
- Scissors
- Glue sticks or Mod Podge
- Toothpicks or skewers
- Elastic string or cord
- Optional: Beads or charms for accents

Instructions:

1. Cut long, thin triangles from magazine pages.
2. Roll each triangle around a toothpick, starting at the wide end.
3. Glue the tip down and let dry.
4. Slide off and string your beads onto elastic.
5. Make bracelets, necklaces, or keychains!

24. Nature Mobiles

Supplies:

- Sticks or driftwood
- Yarn, twine, or fishing line
- Pinecones, leaves, feathers, rocks with holes
- Beads or bells (optional)
- Scissors

Instructions:

1. Tie several strings to a stick or driftwood to form hanging lines.
2. Add nature items to each string, knotting securely.
3. Decorate with beads or feathers.
4. Tie a string to the top for hanging.
5. Display under a porch, tree, or cabin awning.

25. Camp Quote Wall Art

Supplies:

- Canvas boards or thick cardstock
- Acrylic paints and brushes
- Stencils or pencils for sketching
- Paint pens or markers
- Optional: Mod Podge to seal

Instructions:

1. Paint a background color or gradient. Let dry.
2. Lightly sketch your favorite camp quote, verse, or word.
3. Paint or use markers to fill it in.
4. Add illustrations like trees, stars, or crosses.
5. Display on cabin walls or gift to a friend.

26. Camp Memory Jars

Supplies:

- Mason jars or small clear plastic containers
- Colored sand or dirt
- Small pebbles, twigs, leaves, or tiny camp souvenirs
- Paper and pens for notes
- Ribbon, twine, or labels

Instructions:

1. Layer the bottom of the jar with sand or soil.
2. Add natural items collected around camp (leaves, pebbles, etc.).
3. Write a short memory or favorite camp moment on a slip of paper and place inside.
4. Decorate the jar lid or tie on a label with twine.

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27. Painted Rock Garden or Kindness Rocks

Supplies:

- Smooth, clean rocks
- Acrylic paint and brushes
- Paint pens (optional for finer detail)
- Mod Podge or outdoor sealant spray
- Optional: Markers, glitter, googly eyes

Instructions:

1. Paint rocks with fun designs, positive messages, or Bible verses.
2. Let dry and seal with Mod Podge or spray sealant.
3. Place around camp trails, cabins, or a designated “rock garden.”
4. Campers can trade or gift them to friends!

28. Friendship Bracelets with Rope and Beads

Supplies:

- Nylon cord, hemp, or thin rope
- Beads (pony, wood, alphabet, glass)
- Scissors
- Clipboard or tape to hold while tying
- Optional: Pattern printouts for different knots

Instructions:

1. Cut 3–5 strands of cord about 24” each.
2. Tie a knot at the top and secure to a table or clipboard.
3. Begin a basic braid or try square knots for variety.
4. Add beads throughout or spell a friend’s name.
5. Tie it off, slip on a wrist, and trade with a buddy!

29. Leather Stamped Bookmarks

Supplies:

- Leather strips (pre-cut to bookmark size)
- Metal stamping tools or alphabet stamp set
- Mallet or hammer
- Hole punch (for leather)
- Optional: Suede cord, dye, or marker for coloring

Instructions:

1. Place leather strip on a hard surface.
2. Choose a stamp and position it on the leather.
3. Tap with a mallet to imprint letters or designs.
4. Punch a hole at the top and tie with suede cord.
5. Optional: Add color or stain to enhance design.

30. Nature Suncatcher

Supplies:

- Clear contact paper or laminating pouches
- Paper plates (cut out center)
- String or ribbon for hanging
- Collected flowers, leaves, grass
- Scissors

Instructions:

1. Cut the center out of a paper plate to create a frame.
2. Stick natural materials between two sheets of contact paper or laminate.
3. Tape or glue into the paper plate frame.
4. Punch a hole at the top and add string to hang.
5. Display in windows or from tree branches.

31. Rock Pets

Supplies:

- Smooth rocks
- Acrylic paint and brushes
- Googly eyes
- Felt or foam scraps (for ears, tails, etc.)
- Tacky glue or hot glue

Instructions:

1. Paint your rock like an animal (turtle, ladybug, hedgehog, etc.).
2. Glue on googly eyes and felt features.
3. Add personality with painted-on paws or whiskers.
4. Let dry and give your pet a name!

32. Plaster of Paris Paw Prints

Supplies:

- Plaster of Paris
- Water and mixing cups
- Plastic bowls or foil pie pans
- Sticks or natural items for stamping
- Optional: Real dog paw (with owner consent) or rubber stamp

Instructions:

1. Mix plaster of Paris according to package directions.
2. Pour into a shallow bowl or mold.
3. Press a paw, stamp, or nature item gently into the plaster.
4. Let dry 1–2 hours.
5. Paint and label with camper’s name or date.

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33. Clay Seed Bombs

Supplies:

- Air-dry clay
- Potting soil
- Wildflower seeds
- Water
- Bowls and spoons

Instructions:

1. Mix 1 part clay, 1 part soil, and a sprinkle of seeds.
2. Add a little water and knead into a ball or flat disc.
3. Let dry 24–48 hours.
4. Take home to “plant” by tossing in a garden or yard!

34. Wood Burning Art

Supplies:

- Wood slices or thin wood plaques
- Wood burning tools (1 per camper or small group)
- Pencils for sketching
- Stencils (optional)
- Safety gloves and instructions

Instructions:

1. Lightly draw your design on the wood slice.
2. Use the wood burner to carefully trace the lines.
3. Add shading or detail by changing tips or pressure.
4. Let cool, then seal with clear spray if desired.
5. Display or use as a keepsake!

35. Wood Slice Christmas Ornaments

Supplies:

- Small wood slices with pre-drilled holes
- Acrylic paints and brushes
- Twine or ribbon
- Markers or paint pens
- Optional: Glitter, stickers, small nature items

Instructions:

1. Paint or decorate one or both sides of the wood slice.
2. Add names, dates, or holiday designs.
3. Loop twine through the hole for hanging.
4. Great for Christmas in July events or take-home gifts!

36. Canvas Painting

Supplies:

- Small canvas panels or boards
- Acrylic paints
- Brushes and water cups
- Palettes or paper plates
- Optional: Stencils, aprons

Instructions:

1. Set up each camper with a blank canvas and painting supplies.
2. Offer a theme (sunset, cabin, nature scene) or let them freestyle.
3. Let dry and send home as wall art or room decor.
4. Optional: Display in a camp “gallery walk” or art show.

37. Mug or Pot Ceramic Painting

Supplies:

- Blank ceramic mugs or small flower pots
- Ceramic paint or paint pens
- Brushes and water
- Oven (for setting paint, if needed)
- Optional: Sealer spray

Instructions:

1. Have campers decorate their mug or pot with designs, quotes, or names.
2. Let dry and follow paint instructions—some require oven curing.
3. Optional: Add a plant, candy, or note for gifting.
4. Great for take-home gifts or Mother's Day/Father's Day crafts.



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38. Necklace Nametags

Supplies:

- Wood slices, clay discs, or shrink plastic
- Cord or twine
- Paint, markers, or stamps
- Hole punch (if needed)
- Optional: Beads for extra decoration

Instructions:

1. Have campers decorate a name tag with their name or nickname.
2. Punch a hole and thread with cord or twine.
3. Add beads or charms if desired.
4. Wear all week and take home as a souvenir.

39. Camp Journals or Sketchbooks

Supplies:

- Blank notebooks or sketch pads
- Markers, washi tape, stickers
- Glue sticks and scissors
- Magazines or nature clippings
- Optional: Camp logo stickers or themed printouts

Instructions:

1. Let campers decorate the covers and first pages.
2. Encourage daily entries, doodles, or prayer reflections.
3. Great quiet time activity or evening wind-down.
4. Use at the end of the week for camper reflection.

40. Resin Art with Pressed Flowers

Supplies:

- Silicone molds (pendant or coaster size)
- Clear resin and hardener (2-part)
- Pressed flowers or leaves
- Disposable cups, sticks, gloves
- Twine or necklace chains (if making pendants)

Instructions:

1. Mix resin and hardener according to package directions.
2. Pour a small amount into the mold, add pressed flowers, and cover with more resin.
3. Let cure for 24+ hours.
4. Remove from mold and finish with string, chain, or magnet.

Note: Adult supervision required.

41. Macramé Wall Hanging or Keychain

Supplies:

- Macramé cord or thick yarn
- Wooden dowels or key rings
- Scissors
- Optional: Beads or feathers

Instructions:

1. Cut cords and attach to dowel or key ring using a lark's head knot.
2. Teach a few simple knots (square knot, spiral).
3. Let campers freestyle or follow a pattern.
4. Trim and knot the ends when done.

42. Counted Cross Stitch (Simple Patterns)

Supplies:

- Aida cloth squares
- Embroidery floss
- Needles (blunt embroidery type)
- Hoops (optional)
- Printed beginner patterns

Instructions:

1. Give each camper a pattern and pre-cut cloth.
2. Thread floss and demonstrate basic stitches (X pattern).
3. Let them work at their own pace—this is great for quiet time.
4. Frame in hoop or glue to cardstock for display.

43. Alphabet Bead Bracelets

Supplies:

- Elastic cord or stretch jewelry string
- Alphabet beads (plastic or wooden)
- Pony beads, spacer beads, or charms
- Scissors
- Optional: Crimp beads or clasps for older campers

Instructions:

1. Cut a length of elastic cord to fit around a camper's wrist with a few extra inches.
2. Let the camper choose a name, word, or phrase (like "JOY," "CAMP," or "BFF").
3. String alphabet beads to spell their word, adding decorative beads on each side.
4. Once finished, tie a secure double knot and trim the excess.
5. Optional: Add a dot of glue to the knot or tuck it into a bead for extra hold.

MASTER SUPPLY SHOPPING GUIDE

Basic Supplies (General Use)

- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Tacky glue / Hot glue guns + glue sticks
- Acrylic paints
- Paint brushes (various sizes)
- Cups for rinsing brushes
- Paper towels / wipes
- Table covers (plastic or disposable)

Nature Materials (Collect or Pre-Purchase)

- Leaves, twigs, pinecones, bark, flowers
- Pressed flower packs (backup)
- Sand (colored + natural)
- Rocks (smooth, medium-sized)
- Cardboard (recycled or precut squares)
- Charcoal sticks or leftover campfire charcoal

Jewelry & Weaving

- Alphabet beads
- Pony beads
- Wood beads
- Safety pins
- Stretchy string / elastic cord
- Paracord (variety of colors)
- Hemp cord / macrame rope
- Key rings
- Yarn (multiple colors)

Wood, Leather & Advanced Tools

- Wood slices (ornament size + larger for burning)
- Wooden dowels
- Leather strips (bookmark size)
- Leather stamping kits + mallets
- Wood burning tools
- Safety gloves
- Stencils (optional for beginners)

Painting & Drawing

- Canvases (small boards or panels)
- Ceramic mugs or mini pots
- Paint pens
- Markers (permanent + washable)
- Pencils / sketching tools

Textiles & Stitching

- White t-shirts / bandanas / pillowcases
- Fabric dye (tie-dye kits)
- Aida cloth
- Embroidery floss
- Cross stitch needles (blunt)
- Embroidery hoops (optional)

Resin, Clay & Plaster

- 2-part clear resin
- Silicone molds (coasters, pendants, etc.)
- Plaster of Paris
- Air-dry clay or salt dough mix
- Disposable mixing cups + sticks
- Gloves
- Aprons / safety gear

Paper & Cardboard and Bin Crafts

- Contact paper
- Tissue paper (colored)
- Paper plates
- Sketchbooks or blank journals
- Construction paper
- Magazines (for collages)
- Journals or sketchbooks
- Clear plastic lids (recycled or purchased)
- Small jars with lids (for memory jars)
- Polaroid film and camera (if doing photo hunt/collage)

Optional Fun Extras

- Glitter or glitter glue
- Glow-in-the-dark paint
- Nature-themed stickers
- Laminating sheets (for bookmarks or pressed flower art)
- Mini cloth bags or pouches (for finished crafts or tic-tac-toe sets)