Troop Program Ideas

December 2015

Things to Celebrate

December
Dec. 1   Eat a Red Apple Day
Dec. 4   Wear Brown Shoes Day
Dec. 6-14 Hanukkah
Dec. 7   Pearl Harbor Day
Dec. 18  Bake Cookies Day
Dec. 20  Go Caroling Day
Dec. 22  Winter Solstice
Dec. 25  Christmas
Dec. 27  National Fruitcake Day
Dec. 31  Kwanzaa

Did you know? On Dec. 31 we will add an extra second to the day! How will you use it?

January
National Soup Month
Jan. 1.  New Years
Jan. 4   Trivia Day
Jan. 5   National Bird Day
Jan. 18  MLK Day
Jan 25.  Opposite Day

Healthy Bake Fruitcake from the Mayo Clinic
Put the fruit back in fruitcake with this reinvented recipe.
Serves 12

Ingredients
- 2 cups assorted chopped dried fruit, such as cherries, currants, dates or figs
- 1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 1/2 cup crushed pineapple
- Zest and juice of 1 medium orange
- Zest and juice of 1 lemon
- 1/2 cup apple juice
- 2 tablespoons real vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup milled flax (flaxseed flour)
- 1/4 cup milled flax (flaxseed flour)
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- 1/4 cup milled flax (flaxseed flour)
- 1 cup whole-wheat pastry flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup crushed or chopped walnuts

Directions
In a medium bowl, combine dried fruit, applesauce, pineapple, fruit zests and juices, and vanilla. Let soak for 15 to 20 minutes.

In a large bowl, mix sugar, milled flax, oat flour, pastry flour, baking soda and baking powder. Pour fruit and liquid mixture into dry ingredients and stir to combine. Add egg and walnuts and stir to combine.

Pour mixture into a loaf pan lined with parchment (baking) paper and bake at 325 F for 1 hour, or until toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Let the fruitcake rest for 30 minutes before removing it from the pan. Serve.

Care For Me -
tune: There is a Tavern in the Town
So many people care for me
(care for me)
And make me happy as can be
(as can be)
A-a-and give me bread and a place to rest
my head,
Oh, the joy of friends and family!
(spoken) Thank you!

Fun with snowflakes
We might not get real snow in our area very often, but we can make our own snowy scene. Have your troop make a ton of paper snow flakes to cover their windows and hang from the ceiling. Look online for easy tutorials. Turn up the air-conditioner and grab some cocoa and enjoy your winter wonderland.
Girl Scout Seasonal Activity: Make a Care Package

Girl Scouts is a strong supporter of our men and women in the armed forces, that’s why we’ve teamed up with Operation Gratitude to make sure that though our soldiers may be overseas, they’ll never be without a piece of home. This holiday season send a gift in a form of a care package and let them know how grateful you are for their sacrifice. Visit www.operationgratitude.com for more information on how to create and send a care package.

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How To Paint a Lemonades™ Umbrella

Celebrate the 10th anniversary of Lemonades! Make this cute umbrella and dress up your cookie booth!

**Step 1**
Start by running the painter’s tape along the side of each of the arches on the umbrella like the example in the photo to the left. The tape should extend from the edge of the umbrella all the way to the center where the ferrule is (the metal tip).

**Step 2**
Once you’ve taped all of the arches, paint the yellow space between the strips of painter’s tape. Once you’ve painted the entire area between the strips of blue tape, let the paint dry for 20-30 minutes.

**Step 3**
After you’ve painted the arches, run the painter’s tape along the bottom of the umbrella about 2-3 inches from the edge. Be careful not to tape over your freshly painted lines – you don’t want it to smudge!

**Step 4**
Once the painted edge of the umbrella has dried, remove the painter’s tape and get ready to use your paint brush. Take a small amount of paint and carefully paint a rounded edge in the bottom right and left corners of each panel.

**Step 5**
Now that you’ve had some practice painting the rounded corners on the bottom of the umbrella, use the same technique on the top corners.

**Step 6**
Once you’ve finished painting the first slice of the lemon on your umbrella, repeat these steps on the remaining panels. Once the paint has dried on all of the panels, your umbrella will be ready to use at your next booth sale! It’s great for protecting you from the sun while you’re selling cookies!

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Trivia Day
Jan 4.

All those fun facts you’ve picked up over your years in Girl Scouts can finally be put to good use!

The History of Trivia Day
The World famous trivia game, Trivial Pursuit, is thought to have sparked people’s fascination with trivia and competing to see who knows more odd facts about geography, history, art, science, sports and entertainment. Trivial Pursuit was first created in Montreal, Quebec, Canada in 1979 by two men named Chris Haney and Scott Abbott, who had become frustrated to find pieces of their Scrabble game had gone missing, thus inspiring them to create their own game. Trivial Pursuit became an almost instant hit and worldwide phenomenon, and the trivia craze began.

How to Celebrate Trivia Day
If you don’t own any home trivia games, Trivia Day can be a great time to crack open the encyclopedia and spend some family time around the dinner table quizzing each other and discussing little known interesting facts. You could also share this day with your troop. Come up with some Girl Scout facts and quiz each other. Go to www.gssjc.org or www.girlscouts.org to get some fun facts.

So what are you waiting for? Order a pizza or two and let the knowledge competition begin!