

# ARTIST -- MENTAL SKILLS GROUP

Cub scouts is for learning and experimenting. We have the opportunity to share the information we have gained from our experience. You may have a family member or a friend who has a talent they would like to share. Try something that you haven't tried.

## OBJECTIVES

- ✓ To allow Webelos to experiment with different art media
- ✓ To give boys a sense of pride an accomplishment in their work
- ✓ To familiarize Webelos with the color wheel
- ✓ To introduce Webelos to various art mediums

## DEN ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Invite a school art instructor or an artist to your den meeting to discuss basic art and to answer any technical questions on the requirements, which may come up.
- ✓ Let the boys study the color wheel and practice combining paints making shades and tints with tempera or watercolor. <http://www.ficml.org/jemimap/style/color/wheel.html>
- ✓ Have modeling clay and material on hand for making models. See Webelos Scout book for instructions on modeling a head. <http://www.pioneerthinking.com/modelingclay.html>
- ✓ Make mobiles. [http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/paper\\_craft\\_2.html](http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/paper_craft_2.html)
- ✓ Make constructions - simple designs in space.
- ✓ Visit an art museum and look at the design ideas put into each display.
- ✓ Make drawings from nature - birds, animals, plants, flowers, etc., scribe in the pencil (with the original drawing under it). <http://drawsketch.about.com/>

## MODELING CLAY

### RECIPE 1

Mix together:

2 1/2 cups flour

1-cup salt

1-cup water

Food coloring is optional.

Store in refrigerator.

### RECIPE 2

Mix and cook over low heat until mixture thickens:

1-cup salt

1-cup flour

1-cup water

Food coloring is optional.

Cool before using

## Snack Food Sculptures

Great Salt Lake Area Council

### Ingredients

Bread sticks                      pretzels                      potato chips  
Cheese curls                      crackers                      popcorn

### Other interestingly shaped foods

Sour cream                      cream cheese                      onion soup

### Directions

- ✓ Soften cream cheese
- ✓ Blend in the soup mix and enough sour cream to make a thick paste
- ✓ Use paste to glue the snack foods together into a unique creation

## Abstract Art

Tune: I'm Looking Over a Four Leaf Clover

I'm watching you painting an abstract painting,  
And wond'ring what it can be.  
Could it be mountains or could it be trees?  
Could it be puppies or could it be me?

No use explaining, what you are painting  
'Cause even then I could not see  
What you are painting in your abstract painting,  
It's all just a mess to me

For many people, art is the way they make their living. For others, it is a recreational activity which develops into a lifelong hobby. The Artist Activity Badge won't make an artist out of every Webelos Scout, but it should help each boy better understand how the artist works and what he's trying to express.

If you are not familiar with color charts, design, sculpture, mobiles, and constructions, you may wish to enlist the help of an experienced dad or mother or an art teacher. Beginner's books on art will also be helpful.

Webelos Scouts will learn to be more observant in this Activity Badge area as they learn to distinguish between colors, tints, and shades. They should appreciate and be more aware of design and color in nature as they learn about these elements of art. They will develop creativity as they practice design and work on sculptures, mobiles and constructions.

### Field Trips

- Attend an art exhibit or visit an art museum.
- Visit your community or village center and look at some of the sculptures, statues, and fountains.
- Keep an eye out for special art shows in the Sunday paper. Major art galleries and museums usually have an exhibit on display.
- Take walking tour of an art plaza in your area, to see excellent examples of sculpture in the statues you can find there.
- Visit the art department of a local college or an arts festival, and watch an artist at work.

## Speakers

- Art instructor
- Artist

## Pack Meeting

- Demonstrate a color wheel. Using poster paint, start with the 3 primary colors of red, yellow and blue, mix a little blue with the red to make violet and gradually mix in more blue to make blue violet. Then do the same with yellow and red, and red and blue.

## Den Activities

- Let the boys study a color wheel and practice combining paints making shades and tints with tempera or watercolor.
- Ask boys to make a profile of a family member and an original picture at home.
- Design is basic in all art. Have boys make two designs each of straight line, curved line, and a composite of both types of lines.
- Have each boy make a pencil sketch of a bottle, dish, or other still object.
- Hold an "Art Can Be Fun" night for the Webelos den families.
- Have modeling clay and material on hand for making models.
- Start simple sculptures to be finished at home. (See Webelos Scout book)
- Make mobiles. Boys can bring some of materials for mobiles from home.
- Have boys make drawings during a nature hike of birds, animals, trees, insects, plants, etc.

## Afterimages

Eyes are funny things. Sometimes they can fool you.

Here is proof. Get some pieces of brightly colored paper, cardboard, or cloth. Be sure the colors are bright.

Use red, green, blue, yellow, orange, and violet.

Cut 3-inch circles from the colored sheets.

You'll need a sheet of black and a sheet of gray paper or cardboard, too.

Go outdoors in the bright sunlight or sit under a bright lamp indoors.

Put the red circle on the black paper and look at it steadily for at least thirty seconds. Be sure not to move your eyes. Sometimes the experiment works better if you shut one eye.

Now take the red circle away and continue looking steadily at the black background. You should see a circle on it, but the color will be green not red.

Try the experiment again, with a gray instead of a black background. The gray will also appear to be green.

Turning off the light or moving into a shadow sometimes increases the effect.

Try again, using a green circle. The afterimage will be red. Use a blue circle and the afterimage will be orange.

An orange circle will give a blue image; Yellow will give violet and violet yellow.

We say that opposites are complementary colors.

We can arrange them in a circle as shown.

The order of colors, starting from violet to blue is the same as in the rainbow.

Many of the beautiful effects in paintings come from "retinal fatigue". The eye can get tired, just like a muscle .

It gets tired from looking at just red. And so, when you take the red away, the retina of the eye tries to see just the opposite , or complementary color. Look at the circle you made again and see if you can determine the afterimage or complementary color to red-orange.

What about blue-green?

## Kim's Game:

Arrange 20 objects in an orderly fashion.

Have the Webelos study the objects in silence for 20 seconds.

Then each player returns to his seat and writes the names of as many objects as he can remember.

The one who names the most correct objects wins.

## Artist's Quiz:

Match the answers on the right to the clues on the left.

- |                                         |                 |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. A primary paint color                | a. Violet       |
| 2. Genius Kit                           | b. Design       |
| 3. Arrangement of shapes or lines       | c. White        |
| 4. A secondary paint color              | d. Blue         |
| 5. Mixture of blue and yellow           | e. Construction |
| 6. Hanging shape                        | f. Green        |
| 7. Mixture of blue and red              | g. Orange       |
| 8. Add this color to make a lighter hue | h. Mobile       |

## Police Artist Drill:

Use an enlarged sheet of head sizes, hairstyles, eyes, mouths, noses and ears to trace an approximate likeness of a well-known person.

Let each boy take a sheet of tracing paper and move it around, selecting appropriate features for the likeness he is creating.

You might want to add this selection of features by tracing some hairstyles, mouths, or ears from magazines or newspaper ads.

The Artist Activity Badge is designed to help the boys have a better understanding of techniques and color. It will also help the boy learn to express himself in a manner that people appreciate and understand.

## SUGGESTED DEN ACTIVITIES:

- ✓ Invite an art teacher or artist to Den Meeting.
- ✓ Attend an Art Exhibit or visit a museum.
- ✓ Make mobiles.

- ✓ Explain and demonstrate with paints and color wheel.
- ✓ Make a simple sculpture.
- ✓ Ask boys to make a profile of a family member.
- ✓ Have modeling clay and materials on hand for making models.
- ✓ Make drawings on a nature hike.
- ✓ Do sand casting or spoon printing.

## COLORED CONCOCTIONS

Let the Webelos Scouts practice mixing colors using different flavors of Kool-aid in primary colors (add a drop or two of food coloring as needed). Have them make up names for their different "formulas," design a menu, and serve their concoctions at the pack meeting.

### SNACK FOOD SCULPTURE

**Sculpture materials:** Bread sticks, pretzels, potato chips, corn chips, popcorn, crackers, cheese curls, etc.

#### Paste:

Mix three 8-oz packages of softened cream cheese with 8-oz sour cream.

Blend in a package of dried onion soup mix.

- ✓ Each player should have a paper plate and a plastic knife.
- ✓ First lay out a framework for the sculpture.
- ✓ Bread sticks, pretzels, crackers and rippled potato chips are great for this.
- ✓ You may want to stand bread sticks as a skeleton and add lighter food to it.
- ✓ When you finish your snack-food sculpture, give it a title and display it (briefly).
- ✓ Then the snack food sculptures can be eaten-artfully nibbled into nothingness.

## WHICH COLOR HOLDS HEAT?

### Materials needed:

Four juice cans  
 Poster paint (white, black, green and red)  
 Hot water (close to boiling)  
 Four thermometers  
 Food Coloring

Paint each can a different color, and then fill each can with equal amounts of hot water.

Add food coloring to the hot water, mixing drops of all the colors together to get black.

Put a thermometer in each can, then record the temperature every three minutes until the water cools.

Make a graph showing your results.

Which color held the heat best?

## TIN FOIL SCULPTURES

### You will need:

Plenty of aluminum foil; clear tape,  
 wire, long straight pins, paper,  
 acrylic paint and brush or permanent markers,  
 scraps of fabric, yarn, glue, etc.

1. Crumble aluminum foil to form shapes of objects or creatures, or shape the foil around a wire frame.
2. Fasten clumps together with pins, wire, or tape.
3. Use paint or markers to add color.
4. Glue on scraps of fabric, paper, yarn, etc to add details.

## ART SHOW

Sponsor a den or pack art show that would encourage all boys to create something in various media for judging and display.

Invite parents to judge and be part of the fun.

Create **FUN** awards for the judges to give:

**MOST KALEIDOSCOPIC** - using all or at least many different colors.

**MOST TRANQUIL** - anything that looks restful.

**MOST AUTOMOVISTIC** - relating to cars, hot rods, trucks, etc.

**MOST ACHROMATISTIC** - meaning free from color, black and white picture.

**MOST CAPTIVATING** - catches your eye.

**MOST SYMBOLIC** - representation of a symbol or emblem.

**MOST DUPLICITIC** - a double, in pairs, using two as part of the design.

**MOST NATURALISTIC**-anything to do with nature; trees, flowers, animals, etc.

Webelos Scouts could work on the Art Academic Belt Loop and Pin in conjunction with this activity badge.

Along this idea, Circle Ten Council suggests using all the boys projects and having an Art Fair at your next Pack meeting. This will help them to qualify for the ART ACADEMIC Belt Loop. See the Art booklet for further details.

## TRIP IDEAS

Visit an Art Festival – Is there a weekend Art Festival coming up in your area where you can take the boys and see what people are making and painting??

Let the boys use their imaginations for the Artist Activity badge, and then visit the museum at the end of the month to see what famous artists have done with the same materials.

Here are some ideas from Circle Ten Council that use displays at the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts. While planning your activities for this month, visit your local museum of art and see what ideas you get!!

- ◆ Cut ten blocks of wood for each boy, plus a larger block of wood for the base. "Three-quarter inch square molding" from a lumberyard is excellent for this purpose. Have the boys make sculptures by gluing blocks together—stacked, angled corner to surface, edge to edge, whatever. Then go to the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts and see what

David Smith, a famous American sculptor, did with ten blocks of stainless steel and a welding torch.

- ◆ Let each boy make a large tissue paper collage, using the colors of his choice. The base for the collage can be 4 or 9 sheets of typing paper masked taped together. Then go to the DMFA and see what Henri Matisse, a famous French artist did with this same idea.
- ◆ Have boys make mobiles, following instructions in Webelos Scout Book. Then go to DMFA and see what Alexander Calder, originator of the mobile did.
- ◆ Have boys make free form sculpture of clay. Then go to DMFA and see Henry Moore's interpretation of Woman, Jacques Lipchitz's bather, Constantin Brancusi's Egg, Barbara Hepworth's Contrapuntal Forms, and Jean Arp's Sculpture Classique, to name only a few.
- ◆ An "original painting" need not be an uninspired photographic reproduction of reality. At the DMFA, study the original painting by Piet Mondrian, Victor Vasarely, Ben Nicholson, Franz Kline, and Jackson Pollock, among others.
- ◆ Supply the boys with white glue, burlap, acrylic paint in several colors and black and white, small wood scraps, wire, and a wooden base board 12" x 12". Then go see what Louise Nevelson, Bontecou, and other did with similar materials.

### Homemade Paints

Here are some homemade paint recipes that you can use for the Art activity badge. They are thick concoctions that can add texture to artistic creations. For added interest, try squeezing them out of a bottle, or from a zip-style sandwich bag with a corner snipped off.

**Soap Flake Paint:** Slowly add ½ cup soap flakes to ½ cup water, beating with an eggbeater as you go. Beat until the mixture is blended evenly. Food coloring or tempura paint may be added for color.

**Faux Oil Paint:** Mix 1 tablespoon powdered tempura paint and 1 tablespoon dishwashing liquid. Blend evenly. It feels like real oil paint.

**Sparkle Paint:** Blend together ¼ cup flour, ¼ cup salt, ¼ cup water, and 2 tablespoons tempura paint. When dry, the salt makes the picture sparkle.

### MAKE A SILHOUETTE

Silhouettes of each den member make the meeting place take on new meaning. To make silhouettes, place Webelos on chair or stool in front of wall. Place a lamp or light, with light directed toward Webelos if possible, on the



opposite side of the Cub from the wall. Hang paper, cardboard, or thin plywood on the wall, and trace the Cub's shadow. Cut it out, paint it black and mount (if desired) and hang. Changing the distance of the light from the subject can regulate the size of the shadow.

## GAMES

### SQUIGGLE DRAWINGS

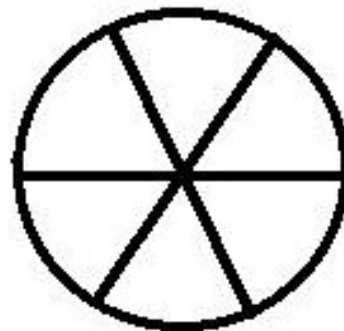
Give each den member a sheet of paper and have them make a wavy or zigzag line on the paper. Then have them exchange paper with another boy, who must turn the squiggle into a picture.

### DRAWING CHARADES

Group is divided into two teams. Each has a large sheet of paper. Teams line up in relay fashion. On signal, the first boy in each line runs to a leader who gives him an object to draw. The boys go to the paper and draw his object. When the team recognizes what he has drawn, they tell the leader. If the answer is correct they get a point. The game continues until all members of each team has and a chance to draw. *(Watch "Win, Lose or Draw on GSN to see this in action CD)*

### TAG TEAM ART

Line den members up in relay fashion. Have a large piece of paper for each team taped on the wall or hung on an easel. Have the first boy begin drawing an object or design on the paper, without talking to anyone about what he is to draw. Allow him 30 seconds, then signal for the next boy. This boy adds to the original picture or design. Each boy has thirty seconds to draw. When each boy has had a turn or two (depending on how the picture is taking shape), signal; a stop. The den members should not confer about the drawing. When the signal is given to stop and all have "admired" their handiwork, have the first boy relate what the original object was to be and see what the finished project exactly looks like.



### The Color Wheel

Fill in the colors on this color wheel as indicated.

Primary colors go in every other pie section.

They are: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Secondary Colors are created by mixing two Primary colors.

Mix two primary colors together and

find that they are: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Fill in the remaining pie sections with the appropriate secondary colors.

What are three neutral colors? \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

### **Complementary Colors**

Complementary colors are those that are opposite each other on the color wheel.

Write down three pairs of complimentary colors.

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Can two primary colors be complementary to each other? \_\_\_\_\_

Can two secondary colors be complementary to each other? \_\_\_\_\_