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SWAPS

WHAT ARE THEY AND WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT

S-SPECIAL
W-WHATCHAMACALLITS
A-AFFECTIONATELY
P-PINNED
S-SOMEWHERE

The idea of swaps was started at the original Girl Scout National Roundup Conference. At that time, a “swap” was just a little remembrance that one Girl Scout gave to another with whom she had become especially friendly during the conference. Swaps are handmade; thus, the Girl Scout is giving a part of herself to show friendship.

Usually, swaps are personalized: the camp cook might give out cookie monsters (*blue pom-pom with googly eyes*); the Girl Scout whose camp name is “Buttons” might give out buttons with the camp name and year painted on them; the counselor who teaches nature might give out a small windsock made out of a brightly colored tissue paper. However, when your entire group is making swaps to trade at a beyond-the-group event, it is sometimes easier if you all make similar items (*for example, everyone makes the same pom-pom critter but each girl gets to pick her own color.*) If all the girls in your group make completely different swaps, they seem to want to exchange only with each other.

It is not necessary to spend a great deal of money on your swaps. Most people make them from scraps or natural materials; the girls should decide how many swaps she wants to make. This is the number she will receive.

Swapping is often a good way of starting a correspondence and for this reason it is a good idea to put your name, address and date on the event, clearly on the swap. If the swap does not lend itself to being written on, you can attach address labels, computer labels, tape or white ribbon. (write in indelible ink.) If none of these ideas will work, then put both your swaps and a piece of paper with the information on it in a sealed plastic bag. Many swaps are made with pins attached so that the recipient can put them on her camp hat or shirt. Swaps are usually an inch or two inches in size.

There are many things that can be given to others, but beyond the shadow of a doubt, the best and most treasured gift is the gift of friendship which is valued above everything else.

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Here are a few ideas for swaps:

1. Little creatures made out of smooth stones or nuts with painted felt feathers.
2. Clothespin Bunnies made from a clothespin, 2 googly eyes, 2 white pompoms, and one tiny pink pom-pom.
3. Cloth Trefoils – Green material cut into trefoils, ribbons. Write group # and event name on trefoil.
4. Needlepoint designs on plastic canvas cut into various shapes.
5. Bookmarks made out of clear contact paper over pictures, or colorful contact paper.
6. Felt animals.
7. Caterpillars-rubber bands, pipe cleaners, googly eyes or holes from paper punch. Wrap pipe cleaner around rubber band and pencil. Attach one end of rubber band to pipe cleaner and pull off pencil. Add eyes.
8. Shell jewelry or shell animals.
9. Wood or ceramic shapes with group or event information.
10. Pin eye – Take pierced earring back, glue on pony bead and googly eye.
11. Packing bead creatures – decorate packing beads with sequins and paint.
12. Tongue Depressors and plastic spoons can be made into people or decorated with potpourri.
13. Noodles can be painted and strung together or put onto safety pins.
14. Origami animals.
15. Creatures made from pompoms and googly eyes.
16. Small wallpaper fans.
17. Write haiku poems on small squares of paper, cover in clear contact paper, punch hole in corner and attach a ribbon.
18. Make designs from pearl beads, add string and/or pin.
19. Paper snowflakes covered in clear contact paper with pin attached.
20. Friendship knot.
21. Ribbon bows with pin attached.

22. Birthday candles tied with ribbon with pin attached.
23. God's eyes made with toothpicks and embroidery floss.
24. Finger puppets.
25. Tissue paper flowers.
26. Paper beads strung on a string.
27. Pony beads on large safety pin, attached with a small safety pin.
28. Small macramé or crocheted items.
29. Caterpillars- Place 2 different colored halves of pipe cleaners side by side. Wind around a pencil. Slide off and glue small wiggle eyes to one end. (Tacky glue is good for this.) The safety pin should be put between the coils in the middle of the caterpillar. You can turn it into a bee with purchased wings.
30. Rainbows- Use red, yellow, blue or green, pipe cleaners cut into thirds. Place in rainbow order and twist the ends together. Then curve into rainbow shape. Glue half a cotton ball to each end for a cloud. Pin goes at the top of the rainbow. Only use three pieces of pipe cleaner.
31. Candy cane- Use red and white or red and green pipe cleaners cut into thirds. Twist together in a candy cane swirl curve the top. (We're adding a tiny ribbon in the middle when we do this.) Pin fits in between the twists on the curve.
32. Butterflies- Accordion fold rectangles of pretty paper, gift-wrap is great. Pinch paper in the middle and bend one third of a pipe cleaner around and give a twist at the top. Curve the ends of the pipe cleaner around a pencil point for a nice finishing touch. The safety pin goes through the back of the "body". Fluff out the wings.
33. Peanuts sprayed by leader with polyurethane spray. Glue on wiggle eyes and a pin to bean nose. Glue a colored pompom for a wig and stick the pin through that. They look like "Bunsen" of the Muppet Babies.
34. Teddy Graham cookies, spray with metallic paint, glue on felt tabs. They look like medals.
35. Plastic canvas cut into rainbow shapes. Weave lanyard "gimp" through the holes.
36. Popsicle sticks - use markers to color them black. Dip each end into white paint. They look like magic wands.
37. Wallpaper fans with rosettes from fabric store and ribbon glued on.
38. Bracelets made from pony beads threaded onto pipe cleaners. Twist ends together to conceal the beads.
39. M&M candies wrapped in colored cellophane and tied with a ribbon.

40. Hershey "kisses" from foil, with group # on the paper.
41. Using plastic spoons, put a chocolate kiss in each, wrapped in plastic wrap and tied with black & orange yarn. We made pumpkin tags with the note "Here's a spoonful of love and kisses for you. Happy Halloween." Each girl signed her name and group number. This was really easy and fun. Each girl did at least ten and some did many more. It would work just as easily with red and green yarn and tags shaped like trees or Santa.
42. Make Oscar the Grouch. Glue wiggle eyes to a green pompom which is glued to the opening of a container. Glue the lid on so it looks like Oscar is peeking out of the can. You can glue a ribbon on so they can be hung or just leave as is.
43. Flashlight made of aluminum foil.
44. Pizza made of tan felt with red, yellow and green felt scraps glued on.
45. Beads on a piece of plastic lacing.
46. Shrink art.
47. Pennants with the group number and year.
48. Miniature camp items.
49. Use your creativity and imagination.

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