**Puppet Making Tips**

*Indian Nation Councils*

**Scrap Puppets**

Scrap puppets are fun, easy and quick to make. Give an old sock a fresh look. Dress up a paper bag. Paint a face on an old wooden spoon and decorate it. To make finger puppets start with an old glove. Cut off the fingers - you know have 5 puppets ready to decorate. Use buttons, beads and pom-poms to make eyes and noses. Bottle caps and jar lids make hats or eyes or ears.

**Popsicle Puppets**

Take a Popsicle stick and paint the eyes, nose and mouth. Use lace to make the dress and wool yarn for the hair.

**Bee Puppet**

Put pom-poms on a yellow sock as the eyes. A pipe cleaner serves as the antennae.

**Popsicle Puppets**

Draw any kind of character you want - a dog, cat, person, or anything. Cut it out and color it; then glue it to a Popsicle stick. You can also make a family and friends for your puppet.

**Cereal Box Puppets**

Cut one side of a SMALL cereal box in half (width) and fold the box towards the uncut side. This forms the mouth; your fingers fit into the top jaw; your thumb fits into the lower jaw. Add eyes. Lips, and hair. Drape scarf over your arm for clothes.

**Doll Puppets**

To make a doll/puppet, you will need scissors, two buttons, tights/socks, a piece of material/cloth, a red pen, a needle and thread, wool, a ruler and some rice.

Cut the tight, (up to the ankle), then fill the foot part most of the way up with the rice. Use some of the wool to tie up the end. This forms the face. Then sew the two buttons on the tip part (as eyes). Draw a mouth with the red pen. Cut the wool into 4-inch pieces and use the needle to sew the wool pieces on the head to make hair. Cut the cloth into the shape of a dress/t-shirt. Sew this onto the bottom of the face and then you have a doll/puppet.

**Decorating Puppets**

Use fabric paints to color things in or use it just like glue. You can also use dry foods such as spaghetti, elbow noodles, or spiral noodles for hair, eyes, noses, mouths, or hair. Use steel wool for hair to make witches. Straws and pipe cleaners are great for whiskers and antennae. Hair can be fashioned from yarn, string and rope. Old jewelry, ribbons and feathers will give your puppet an exotic look. Shells can make interesting eyes or ears. Seaweed hair is stylish and smelly! Nuts, bolt, washer, hooks and springs are neat attachments for making robot puppets.

**Planning a Puppet Show**

*Trapper Trails Council*

**Week 1 -**

Come up with a theme or use the theme "Imagination Station" to let the boys write their own script for a puppet show. Encourage them to each participate and come up with different ideas that can be used. Make sure that there will be enough parts for each boy to use for their puppet.

**Week 2 -**

Decide on what type of puppets will be used. Keep it pretty basic to ease making the pattern and cutting out a puppet for each boy. If it's a person cut the pattern from flesh or pink felt, a dog, from tan or brown felt, etc. Then let the boys create their puppets with various odds and ends of felt, material, button, sequins, or whatever you can come up with. Ask for donations of odds and end from their parents or families. Glue the edges of the hand puppets together with low temp glue guns or thick tacky glue. Let them have fun with the glue to create their own puppets.

**Week 3 -**

Get a large appliance box and cut it so it has a front and two sides that will bend as wings to hold the box upright. Cut a large square hole in the front to form the window for your puppet show stage. Let the boys decorate the front of the box to go along with the theme of your script. If you're brave they could even paint it with poster paints.

**Week 4 -**

**Practice, Practice, Practice!** Make sure each boy knows their parts and cues so that they will be able to perform a puppet show for your pack meeting. The boys love to perform and this will be a project that they will remember for many years! Give each boy the chance to be an announcer, emcee, or narrator for your show! If your boys have been learning about magic tricks this would be a great time for them to show your den their talents in the magic area or save the stage and use it at a later date for a magic show that the boys can put on.

**Some prop ideas:** an empty oatmeal box with a cut out front oval can become a hollowed out log when covered when brown paper then cut out a silhouette of a bunny or squirrel and glue inside the oval.

Tip a card table on its side and put a scene on it.