

Decorated Tree (a convention workshop about 2013)

The only preparation needed in advance is the creation of a base for the trees. As pictured, one tree with a valentine theme has a heart base and the Christmas tree has a round, stained, block of wood. A hole needs to be drilled in the base to accommodate the tree "trunk." An alternative is to make the bases generic and install them before the juniors arrive.

Supplies: small trees, bases for the trees, ribbons, strung beads or other "garland" material, small plastic icicles (cut off a strand of small icicles meant as a garland), small ornaments (figures, bells, hearts, etc.), possibly some small silk flowers. Hot melt glue and guns, tacky glue, cups of cold water and craft sticks. It may be advisable to have salve and a few Band-Aids along.



Participants will decorate a small 10" tree to fit a holiday of their choice. This tree is an appropriate accessory for dolls from 5 – 9".

There will be a choice of ornaments, ribbons, garland, and other decorations.

Direct the juniors in the use of hot melt glue guns before they begin the activity: Put a small glob of glue where you want a garland to touch or an ornament to hang. Place the item and push down on it using a craft stick to keep your fingers out of the glue. The cup of cold water is to dunk your finger in if it touches the hot glue. Do that immediately and call a leader over to help.

Hold up and discuss the options available for decorations. Indicate to the juniors that there are several considerations as they begin to plan their tree:

- What holiday will your tree represent?
- Pick a base for your tree, put hot glue in the hole, and insert the trunk of your tree (if not already prepared by the leader).
- Do you want a garland? If yes, then this gets chosen and put on FIRST before any ornaments.
- Next plan your ornaments. Some ornaments like icicles can have a dab of glue applied and then stuck on a branch. Others with strings need to be hung on the branch and a tiny dab of glue added (could be tacky glue) where the string touches the branch. If you are making ribbon bows, it is recommended to make the bows and then glue them on the branches.