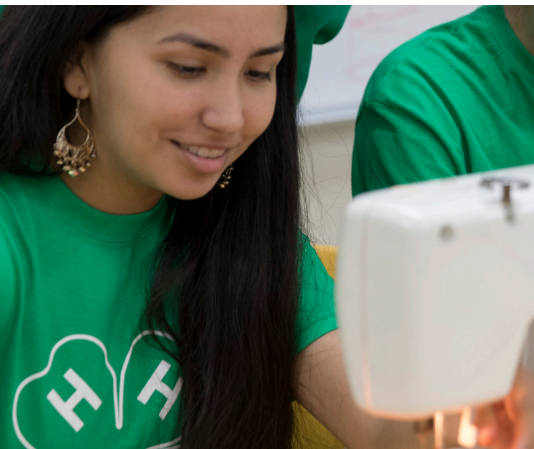


# 4-H at Home Holiday Activity Guide



**Bring 4-H to your home this holiday season with 15 fun, hands-on activities!**

**TIP:** You can print this or save a digital version for new ideas anytime. Many of the activities are shown as an abbreviated version—just visit the web page listed for each activity to get the full version with additional instructions and information!

► To discover a wide selection of 4-H activities and experiences, visit [4-H.org/4atHome](https://4-H.org/4atHome)

**4-H at  
HOME**



Thank you to our partners at JOANN and Ponysitters Club for their support.

# STEM Binary Code Ornaments

## Description

Code without a computer, learn about the binary alphabet, and craft a simple ornament all in one great Christmas STEM project.



## Supplies



Packages of pony beads: red, green & white



Pipe cleaners: red, green & white



Small pieces of 4-H fabric



White glue



Scissors

```
00010 01
10000 11
10100 11
01100 01
```

Binary alphabet off the Internet

## Activity Steps

1. Look up binary alphabet on the Internet to get the code.
2. Twist two pipe cleaners together to make a longer piece.
3. Use the following guide: Make 0 out of red beads. Make 1 out of green beads. Make spaces out of white beads.
4. Following the binary code, slide beads onto the pipe cleaner to create a word.
5. Twist ends together and make a holiday shape from the beaded pipe cleaners.
6. You can finish by gluing a piece of fabric to the backside of the ornament. Let it dry and then trim off the excess fabric.
7. Tie a bow to hang.

## Craft Hack Tips and Tricks:

Use words that are longer than 5 letters to create a reasonably-sized ornament.

# Yarn Wrapped Holiday Ornaments

## Description

Making ornaments out of yarn will help your kids develop fine motor skills and explore their creativity. The colors and designs are up to you!

► [Learn more 4-H.org/Ornament](https://4-H.org/Ornament)



Brought to you by JOANN

# Holiday Classic Story Time

## Description

Read a holiday classic every night in December and discuss with your family what the book means to you!

## Activity Steps

1. Research holiday classic books and create a reading list (check your local library!).
2. Find books that teach character traits or books that are meaningful to you.
3. Each night before bed, read the book with your family.
4. Discuss what the book means and enjoy learning more each night!





# Tea-light Snowmen

## Description

Light up a neighbor or friend's yard with these fun and decorative snowmen tea-lights!

Supplies	
	
Battery Operated Tea-Lights	Black Permanent Marker
+	+
	
Red Ribbon (for hat and scarf)	Black Felt
+	+
	
Orange Permanent Marker	Glue Gun

## Activity Steps

1. Using your black marker, draw coal eyes and mouth. Using your orange marker, color your tea-lights flame to make the carrot nose.
2. Cut your snowman's top hat out of the black felt. Glue red ribbon on hat for the band. Glue hat on to your snowman's head. Make sure to always ask an adult for help when using the glue gun.
3. Cut a length of red ribbon for scarf. Make a loop with the ribbon and glue front pieces together to hold. Attach to your snowman.
4. Get a length of ribbon and tie ends together. Attach to your snowman and hang up for all to see!

Brought to you by Ponysitters Club

# Stamped Gift Wrap

## Description

Use homemade stamps to create personalized gift wrap with a kind holiday message.



## Supplies



Pencil



Ruler



**Acrylic Paint**  
2 Ounces of  
DecoArt Dazzling  
Metallics Acrylic Paint,  
Champagne Gold

Hero Arts Wood  
Mounted Rubber  
Stamp Snowflake



Rubber  
Stamp



**Brayer**  
Speedball Soft  
Rubber Brayer 2 Inches



Tape



Scissors



Styrofoam  
Plate



Easel  
Paper

## Activity Steps for Snowflakes Gift Wrap

1. Roll out the desired amount of paper onto a large flat surface.
2. Tape the paper to the surface.
3. Using the ruler, draw a faint pencil line 7 1/2 inches down from the edge of the paper.
4. On the line locate points every 4 inches. Indicate by a dash on the horizontal line. This is the width of the wood on the back of the stamp.
5. Lay a line of gold paint on the plate.
6. Roll the brayer into the paint to
7. Using the brayer, apply a thin, even coat of paint to the raised sections of the stamp.
8. Holding the stamp on the curved sides of the wood backing carefully line up the top edge of the wood with the pencil line.
9. Press down firmly without rocking.
10. Continue applying the stamp down the length of the paper using the pencil line as the guide for the top edge of the stamp.
11. For the most solid application of the stamp, paint should be applied between each press.
12. When desired pattern is complete, allow paint to dry.
13. Wash the stamp with warm, soapy water.
14. Erase the pencil line from the paper.

► Learn other stamped gift wrap designs: [4-H.org/GiftWrap](http://4-H.org/GiftWrap)

Brought to you by JOANN

# Family Gingerbread House Decorating Contest

## Description

Have some quality family time by holding a family Gingerbread House decorating contest.

## Activity

1. Purchase or make home-made Gingerbread Houses. Be sure to get some frosting and edible decorations!
2. Gather your family together for a night of fun.
3. Set a time limit.
4. Decorate the Gingerbread Houses as teams or individuals.
5. Enjoy judging each other's creations, or have friends or other family members judge.
6. Pick a winner and begin eating those yummy houses together!



## Supplies



Graham Crackers



Icing



Piping Bag



Candy



Pretzels



Dried Fruits



Sprinkles for Decorating

Thank you to 4-H Youth in Action Award winner, Amelia Day, and her family for contributing thoughtful activities for this holiday guide.

# Christmas Village with Wood Birdhouses

🕒 1-2 Hours | Grades: Pre-K-2, 3-5, 6-8

## Description

Create your own Christmas village by decorating unfinished bird houses.

## Supplies

- Assorted Shapes and Sizes of Unfinished Wood Birdhouses
- Assorted Colors of Acrylic Paints
- Brushes
- Mod Podge Glue
- Assortment of embellishments - Jingle Bells, Chenille Stems, Pompoms, Felts, Washi Tapes, Ribbons, Clothespins, Gems, Buttons
- Craft Glue

## Activity Steps

1. Using a photo as a guide, paint wood birdhouses. Let dry completely.
2. Add glue embellishments in place using craft glue.
3. Drizzle fabric paint to resemble snow onto roof edges and sprinkle with glitter.
4. Brush Mod Podge onto roof tops and sprinkle with glitter.



► View online at [4-H.org/Village](https://4-H.org/Village)

Brought to you by JOANN

# Popcorn Balls

## Ingredients:



7 quarts (approx. 12 cups) popped popcorn

+



1 cup sugar

+



1 cup light corn syrup

+



1 tsp salt

+



1 tsp vanilla

+



Liquid food color drops (optional)

+



4 tablespoons of softened butter



## Preparation

- Place popped popcorn in a large bowl with room for mixing.
- In a heavy saucepan, combine sugar, corn syrup and salt.
- Cook over medium heat until a candy thermometer reads 235 degrees (soft-ball stage).
- Remove from heat and add food color (optional) and vanilla.
- Immediately pour in a thin stream over popcorn, stirring constantly until evenly coated.
- Rub thin layer of butter onto clean hands.
- When mixture is cool enough to handle but still warm, work quickly to shape handfuls of coated popcorn into a ball shape the size of an adult fist.
- Cool completely and wrap individually in plastic wrap.

Makes 12 to 15 balls.

**Optional decorations:** Wrap each popcorn ball in clear plastic wrap and decorate outside with cutout construction paper shapes. Easy and fun designs: jack-o-lantern faces, snowman, bunny, baby chick, holiday ornaments, clowns.





# Homemade Bath Fizzies

## Description

Learn about chemical reactions by making homemade bath bombs! They make great holiday gifts to give to friends, family and the community!

## Activity Steps

1. Mix olive oil and essential oil together in bowl.
2. Mix baking soda, cornstarch and citric acid together in separate bowl.
3. Make indentation in center of mixture and drizzle olive oil mixture into indentation; mix well.
4. Add water, a little at a time, and blend - adding water causes fizzing. Absorb water in cornstarch as much as possible so the fizzle does not fizz while you are mixing ingredients.
5. Once blended, scoop out 1 tablespoon of mixture. Shape into a ball, squeezing tightly. You can also use a mold, like a decorative cookie mold.
6. Allow to dry overnight before packaging.
7. Place in cellophane bags and tie off with ribbon.

► Check it out at [4-H.org/BathBomb](https://4-H.org/BathBomb)

## Supplies



# Winter Coat Drive

## Description

Collect winter coats that you no longer use and donate them to a local charity to help families in need.

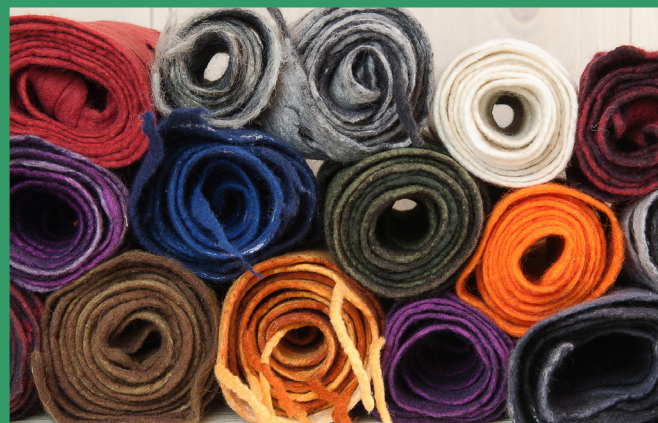
## Activity Steps

1. Collect winter coats from your closet that you no longer need or use.
2. Ask family, friends or citizens from your community for coat donations.
3. Research organizations that accept coat donations and deliver the coats so they can be put to good use by those in need.





# Handmade Fleece Scarves for the Homeless



## Activity Steps

1. Enlist help from friends and family.
2. Purchase fleece fabric.
3. Cut fabric in strips of 10"x48" (you may cut small strips at the end of the longer pieces to make it look like fringe).
4. Locate areas that homeless citizens tend to be located (you can call a homeless shelter or local soup kitchen to ask, too).
5. Take friends and family with you to tie the scarves around trees before cold weather arrives.

## Description

Gather your friends or family together to create handmade fleece scarves and tie them around trees near a homeless area.

## Supplies



Fleece Fabric



Scissors

2 Hours | Grades: Pre-K-2, 3-5, 6-8

# Paper Snowflakes for a Nursing Home

## Description

Brighten up a local nursing home by decorating and hanging paper snowflakes.

## Activity Steps

1. Take white paper and fold into eighths.
2. Cut small designs out of the paper.
3. Spray with glitter paint.
4. Contact a local nursing home to volunteer to create a winter wonderland for the residents.
5. Enlist helpers to come with you to hang up snowflakes at the nursing home.
6. Stay around to visit with the resident – and maybe even sing some holiday songs!

## Supplies



White Paper



Glitter Paint



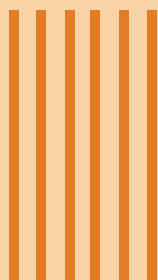


# New Year's Friendship Bracelets

## Description

Create colorful New Year's friendship bracelets. Then, share them with cherished friends and family members in your life.

## Supplies



5-7 Different  
Colors of  
Metallic Thread  
(24 Inches  
Long Each)



Scissors

+



Tape

+



Ruler or  
Measuring Tap

## Activity Steps

1. Tie all the strands together with a knot about 2 inches from near the top of the strands.
2. Separate the colors so you have one set of colors on the left and one on the right. Make sure the color pattern mirrors itself on both sides.
3. Starting on the outside, bring the two outer pieces of thread (should be the same color) to the middle and cross them. Continue doing the crossing until the color you started with is on the outside again. Pull the threads tight so they look like a fishtail braid.
4. Continue braiding pieces to the front until you are near the end of the threads. Tie the two sides together to close the braid. Then tie the two ends together to complete the bracelet.



► Watch the Video Tutorial from the Ponysitters Club [here](#).

# Homemade Holiday Cards or Care Packages for Veterans



## Description

Give back this holiday season to those in need. Make homemade holiday cards or care packages to share with your local Veterans Affairs Office.

## Activity Steps

1. Purchase blank cards and other items that can be used for care packages.
2. Gather friends and family to help.
3. Draw colorful designs and artwork on the front of your blank cards. Fill the inside with encouraging notes.
4. Pack the care package items in stockings or plastic bags.
5. Contact the Volunteer Service Representative at your local Veterans Affairs Hospital to arrange your delivery of the cards and care packages.

🕒 30 minutes | Grades: 3-5, 6-8



# New Year's Wish Pillows

## Description

Craft a pillow to remind you of your wishes and dreams for the New Year.

## Supplies

- Piece of Fabric (about 12"x12")
- Paper and Pen to write with
- Glue Gun (ask adult for help)
- Markers or Paint (to decorate)
- Buttons, Beads, Sequins or anything else you want to decorate your pillow with!

## Activity Steps

1. Fold your fabric in half so that there is an opening at the top. Using a glue gun, glue the side and bottom into place.
2. With your pen and paper, write out all your dreams and wishes for the new year! Want to learn a new sport? Do better in school? Help friends more? Write it all down on the strips of paper. As many as you can think of.
3. Use the strips of paper to stuff your pillow. The more wishes and dreams, the better! When finished, use the glue gun to seal up the remaining seam.
4. Personalize! Decorate your wish pillow with paint, gems, glitter, whatever your creativity desires!

Brought to you by Ponymsitters Club





Make a difference this season by making a tax-deductible donation to support 4-H youth.

By giving to 4-H, you are giving kids the resources they need now to make a difference in the world. Your gift will open doors, remove barriers and clear a path to a better future for millions of young people across the country.

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