

Become An Astronaut

GOAL: An introduction to space facts and allow the kids to step into the shoes of an astronaut.

PROGRAM AREAS COVERED: Let's Make Arts and Crafts and Let's Play a Game

MATERIALS REQUIRED:

GAME: • Balloons

BUILDING A SPACESHIP:

- One 1m x 1m box (or bigger)
- Pieces of rope for shoulder straps
- Box cutter or a utility knife
- Packing or Duct Tape
- Markers

CREATING A UFO:

- Two paper plates per person
- Markers
- Glue
- Stickers or any other decorations or craft materials

TIPS: The 1m x 1m box in the "Building a Spaceship" craft needs to be big enough to allow a child to wear it.

It's time consuming to sit with a group and cut out all the holes needed in "Building a Spaceship" craft so it is recommended that the holes be precut before the meeting and the shoulder straps set in place.

Box cutters or a utility knife are recommended because scissors don't cut cardboard very well.

PREPARATION TIME:

BUILDING A SPACESHIP: 10-15 min

CREATING A UFO: 10 min

PROGRAM TIE IN: If you live close to one, go on a field trip to a Science Center.



Opening

Enjoy your usual Opening then tell the girls/boys that they are going to be astronauts tonight! Ask your Sparks what they know about astronauts. Ask the girls some questions such as what is a UFO and what do astronauts do?

ANSWERS: A UFO is an un-identified flying object. Some of the things astronauts do are: go into space, walk on the moon, and drive remote controlled vehicles on distant planets.

Craft

"Building a Spaceship"

After sitting around during the Opening racking their brains about why you have boxes behind you it's time to tell them that they are about to become astronauts of their own spaceships. But first they have to get their spaceships ready!



Give each person one 1m x 1m box (their spaceship), some markers to decorate their ship, and some tape to hold the ship together.

Cut a hole in the middle of the box so you can fit a youngster in it. Next to the big hole cut four more small holes, two on each side. Thread a piece of rope through the two holes on the left to create a handle for them to hold onto. Do the same for the other side. Make sure that all cutting is done by a leader to prevent injury.

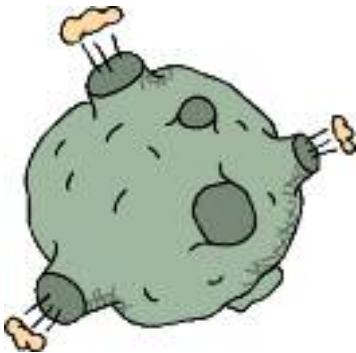


Note that the time it takes to complete this project can vary depending on how much cutting a leader has to do. Allow the girls/boys ten to fifteen minutes to decorate their spaceship then give them a few minutes to play with their spaceships to burn off some excess energy before you move on. They can pretend they are lifing off into space in their own spaceship.

“Creating a UFO”

Your astronauts are now professionals in their field, but to make them experts they need to discover an Unidentified Flying Object or a UFO.

For this craft let each youngster build their own UFO so they can take it home with them. Give each person two paper plates and have them glue them together where one plate is right side up and the other is upside down so the plate rims are touching. This forms your UFO.



Next it is time to let them decorate it with markers or any other decorations you have on hand. This craft only takes ten minutes.

Game

Meteorite Attack!

The kids are astronauts that have been hand-picked to complete a top secret mission. Their mission is to stop meteorites from crashing into the Earth. Break your kids into groups of six. Have them form a circle and toss an inflated balloon up into the air. The balloon is the meteorite and the ground is Earth. They must hit the balloon to one another without letting it touch the ground. If it touches the ground just pick it up and start again. If one balloon isn't challenging enough then toss in a second meteorite.

Closing

Congratulate them on becoming fine astronauts!

Sing “Moon Visit” from Sing A Song with Sparks and Brownies.

Enjoy your regular Closing.

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