



Library: Webster Public Library

Title of Program or Event: Blue Jeans “Locker Pockets” Come-and-Go Craft

Age level: gr. 6-12

Description of Activity: Taking a pocket off a pair of blue jeans, the participants create a decorated pocket with a magnetic backing to hang in their school locker to hold notes, pencils, hair accessories, etc.

Objectives / Goals:

Have an opportunity to create a craft unique to the teen’s personality and enjoy time with their friends as they craft.

Suggested setting: Meeting room with tables and chairs.

Time required: 1.5 hrs.

Materials needed: old pairs of blue jeans with back pockets; fabric paint; lace; ribbon; buttons; sequins; strips of magnetic tape (with adhesive backing); marking pens (black, glitter, etc.); 10 pr. Fiskar-type scissors strong enough to cut denim; power strips; irons; ironing boards; glue gun; extension cords; photocopies of instruction sheets; plastic tablecloths to cover work area and rolls of paper to lay out on top of tablecloths to clean up mess easily and “recover” unused embellishments; bowls or egg carton cups to hold variety of embellishments (fabric flowers, buttons, etc.); stencils; glitter paint; 6” fabric squares with Wunder-Under affixed to strengthen pocket when ironed on back; pencils; Sobo quick-drying tacky craft glue in 3 oz. cups; small paper plates; toothpicks or craft sticks to spread glue; glue sticks; scraps of fun foam to trim and write a message to glue on the pocket; lace; rickrack; alphabet vinyl confetti (to spell out name); felt; ribbon; rulers.

Advanced Preparation: Recruit teen volunteers to attend to assist one-on-one with any participant that has a disability. Cover all work surfaces with plastic tablecloths. Roll paper lengths to fit table to lay on top of tablecloths. Tables arranged in U shape, with presenter’s table at the front for demonstration of project to the group. Each table should have scissors, pencils, an assortment of embellishments, and glue in cups on paper plates with toothpick spreaders laid out. Stations for ironing and hot gluing set up in different corners of the room. Line up adult helpers to assist with all aspects, but especially to supervise or perform the ironing for the students.

Procedure: Pair up participants that need assistance with the teen volunteer helpers. Instructor describes craft, shows sample, and demonstrates all the steps involved in the

process. Students follow along with their instruction sheets. A table at a time, participants select a pair of jeans and cut off one back pocket, leaving about 1" around the edges. The excess fabric is trimmed off. A piece of cotton fabric (with Wunder-Under affixed) is selected and the pocket used as a template to trace its size on to the paper Wunder-Under backing. Trim the fabric backing slightly inside the lines. Peel off the paper. Iron the backing on to the back of the pocket with adult supervision. If using fabric paints (which take 24 hrs. to dry), affix magnet strips to the backing at this point (otherwise, do as last step). Select various embellishments from the supplies provided and glue them in place. (Additional embellishments, such as fabric initials or flowers, can also be affixed when they are fused on the back with the Wunder-Under.) Let dry. Hang up!

Modifications: Students with disabilities may need one-on-one assistance with cutting, tracing, and gluing. All students needed assistance with ironing.

Evaluation: Students were genuinely thrilled with the results. They took quite a while to select and place the embellishments and took ideas from one another. Key to success is a wide variety of trims, glitter, sequins, buttons, initial confetti, etc. that will appeal to teens—the flashier, the better! The popularity of the activity, even without a sample on display in the library, was evident through the high number of sign-ups. The course maxed out at 30 participants several days before it was held and more than 10 students were on the waiting list. In the end, all were allowed in the class, including two walk-ins the evening of the program. Attendance totaled 35. It was a good friend and sister activity. A minimum of 3 adult helpers is needed, regardless of the size of the group. One student with developmental disabilities that attended indicated she would have preferred a typical peer to assist her, rather than an adult, and that we should consider future crafts that are not so fine motor based.