

March 25, 2024  
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For Immediate Release

### March – National Craft Month is Here

I am excited to share that March is National Craft Month. What a fun reason to get out the glue sticks, construction paper, feathers, and glitter. Oh, so much glitter. I have always loved crafting with my kids. We kept many, many craft supplies in our home. We were ready for rainy days and snow days too. It is great to see that type of hobby recognized nationally. National Craft Month is an annual celebration of creativity and crafting. Many crafters use this as an opportunity to not only share their creations but to market them as well. Although we are not all crafting business entrepreneurs, we can still celebrate just for the fun of it.

We grew up very close to my grandparents. In fact, we were often found there after school. We would beg the bus driver to drop us off at her driveway instead of our own. Grandma Donna always had projects for us to do and of course yummy snacks. Under her semi-watchful eye, we made lots of presents. Presents for our teachers, presents for our friends, and presents for our parents. She had all the cool supplies: construction paper, old magazines, paints, glitter, and you can imagine many other items. We would just let our imaginations run wild and we came up with some pretty cool things. When we would finally trek home with our treasures, our mom would just shake her head and send us to the milking barn.

If your home is not as well-stocked as my grandma's, you have other options to find crafting items. One place to look is your local library or community center. Some community libraries have Maker's Spaces. Most often those areas have supplies needed to do different projects from painting to scrapbooking or other paper-crafting. Some offer classes on using the supplies and even have project ideas to help you get started. If your library doesn't have a Maker's Space, a peak at their bulletin board

might find someone that offers classes in crocheting, knitting or other craft. You might even be able to post a want ad for a specific hobby you are interested in learning.

Another benefit of your library is all the books you can check out. I'll admit I like to have instructions that are printed on paper. I prefer to have a materials list, step-by-step instructions, and a photo of what the finished project "should" look like. If this seems like you too, back to the library you must go. Most libraries have a great selection of crafting books. Enjoy the quiet environment perusing books to see what interests you. They will even help you make copies of the pages you need.

Another great place to find project ideas is the internet. As an example, when you google: "National Craft Month Idea Videos", many, many step-by-step videos are available. You can even sort them by "beginning crafter" or "easy project" or even by "crafting on a shoestring budget". I even found a video on decorating terra cotta pots to look like Dr. Seuss characters. If your child or grandchild's school celebrates Dr. Seuss week, these would make great teacher gifts. Teachers love to get home-made gifts. Even if it's a "wonky" attempt, it will still be appreciated.

I know the month is almost over but there are still plenty of opportunities to get crafting. Recruit your friends and make a day of it. A little advice if you are using glitter; have your vacuum handy, that stuff can go everywhere. If you are unsure what to do after your project is done, there are a few options. If your craft was trying a new recipe, share your creation with your neighbors or church family.

If your craft was more of a project, we at the Extension Office might be able to help. If the project was done by a 4-H member, chances are we have a class that it can be exhibited in at the County Fair. Projects that are made by those above or below 4-H age, might be able to be exhibited in the Open Class exhibits. Many county fairs have classes available in the Open Class division. If you have any questions on fair projects or others, please contact your local Extension Office. We would love to see your crafting masterpieces.

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