

SWAPS...

Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere Share With A Pal Share With Another Person

The idea of swaps was started at the original National Roundup Conferences. At that time, a swap was a little remembrance that one Girl Scout gave to another. Swaps are handmade, thus the girl is giving a part of herself to show friendship. Swapping is a good way of starting correspondence and for this reason you usually have your name and address attached. It is not necessary to spend a lot of money on swaps. Many swaps are made with pins attached so they can be pinned onto a camp shirt or hat. Most people make them out of scraps or natural materials. First of all, swaps are little things the girls and leaders make to trade with each other. They may be simple, complex, expensive or inexpensive, whatever the maker desires. Each girl should decide how many swaps she wants to make. This is the same number that she will receive. She may make them all the same, or make every one different. If you want to make some swaps for a camping unit, then each troop should make different swaps so the girls are not limited in trading. If you are making swaps in your troop, give the girls an assortment of beads, small wooden shapes, paints, markers, ribbons, felt, chenille stems, etc. and let their imaginations go wild. Swaps are usually only an inch or two in size. Instruct the girls to create their swaps with a safety pin attached. Swaps are traditionally pinned onto a swap hat. This hat could be part of your troop identification, perhaps painters caps in your troop color. Remember that swaps are made as tokens of friendship. The girls are supposed to swap these tokens with new friends they make. It's important to stress that they are tokens of friendship, and it's an honor to be asked to swap; "Oh, that's ugly, I don't want to swap" is not an acceptable answer to a request to swap. Swaps are made with love and are given with love. It's always nice to put your troop number and name and the date of the event on the back of the swap to recall wonderful memories.

70 Swap Ideas:

1. Little creatures made out of smooth stones or nuts with painted or felt features.
2. Bunnies made from a clothespin; wiggle eyes and pom poms.
3. Cloth trefoils--green material cut into trefoils; write troop number and event name on the trefoil.
4. Needlepoint design on plastic canvas cut into various shapes.
5. Felt animal shapes.
6. Caterpillars--rubberband, pipe cleaner, wiggle eyes; wrap pipe cleaner around rubber band and pencil. Attach one end of rubber band to pipe cleaner, pull off pencil. Add eyes.
7. Shell jewelry or shell animals.
8. Wood or ceramic shapes with troop or event information.
9. Pin eye; take pierced earring back, glue on pony bead and wiggle eyes.
10. Packing bead creatures; decorate packing beads with sequins and paint.
11. Tongue depressor and plastic spoons can be made into people or decorated with potpourri.
12. Miniature camp items.
13. Miniature campfires: Small twigs, twist together with red and yellow pipe cleaners for flames.
14. Lanyards from plastic lacing.
15. Mayflower ship; walnut shell half with small piece of play dough inside; toothpick and small paper for sail.
16. Felt pieces in brown, tan, and white to make mini s'mores.
17. Miniature tomahawks--4 sticks, yarn, feather, sponge; cut damp sponge into rectangle, wrap yarn into criss-cross fashion, tie off in back. Glue feathers so they hang down. Sponge will harden when it dries.
18. Warm fuzzy--pom with wiggle eyes glued on, then glue pom pom to felt feet.
19. WOPAT creature using pom poms: Use the colors of each world down the strip (W=red, O=yellow, P=blue, A=purple, O=orange). WOPAT = the five worlds in Girl Scouting.
20. Five facet beads, one of each of the above colors with a green tri-bead at the bottom. Make the girls name the worlds before swapping.
21. 35mm film container turned into first aid kit with band aid, etc.
22. Scraps of paper with stickers and plastic to make them waterproof.
23. Butterfly made of bow tie noodles.
24. Ribbon with your troop number on it.
25. Scraps of string tied in different knots.
26. Styrofoam cup melted in oven turns into a hat. (Open your window when doing this!)
27. Bottle cap painted black with brown, yellow and white felt cut to look like bacon and eggs cooking in a frying pan.
28. Small spools of thread, with a tag that says "We are SEW lucky to be Girl Scouts."
29. Individual "leaves" of a large pine cone can be the head of an animal. Add eyes, then twigs for antlers and you have a deer. A small red pom pom can turn it into Rudolph.

30. Orange pom pom with green leaf-shaped fabric glued on; note says "Orange you glad to be a Girl Scout?" Can use larger pom poms and make jack-o-lanterns.
31. Make a leader swap by cutting 4x4 pieces of fabric. Put a couple teaspoons of bath salts in and tie with green and white ribbon. Attach note that says, "Calvin, take me away." Great swap after a long weekend!
32. Take mini-clothespins, paint with acrylic paints to look like Girl Scouts; drill through the sides where the arms should be and string them on a ribbon or lanyard lacing. Put on faces with a Sharpie marker... make a necklace by stringing with a bead in between the clothespins. Nice to make for leaders by making them the age level they are leading.
33. Wooden clothespins, large and small. Painted and made to look like different people or animals. A pin is glued to the back.
34. Shells--glue eyes on to make shell critters. Or take those with natural holes and string them on one end of a piece of yarn. On the other end glue a fish, drawn, colored and cut from construction paper.
35. Nuts are great for animals, baskets, and many other things.
36. S'mores from cut up sections of a box, a square of brown felt and a cotton ball. Glue all together with yarn and attach to a pin.
37. Laminate (with clear contact paper) nice leaf rubbings.
38. Pizza made of tan felt with red, yellow and green felt scraps glued on.
39. Construction paper and typing paper can be folded and cut to make a mini book. Selected stickers can help give it a certain theme.
40. Square knot ribbon. Take different colors (for example, Juniors might use blue and green) of ribbon, about 6" long. Tape the ends of the ribbon to a table and have the girls practice making square knots in them until there is about an inch and a half left. Then tie a small bell on the end. Usually they will get 4-6 knots on the ribbon, and it is great square knot practice! Change the color to suit season, etc. You could also do this, but braid the ribbon.
41. Mini cups or champagne glasses. Put several pom poms in them, a small red pom pom on top, and a section of plastic straw to create a sundae.
42. Glow in the dark. Glow in the dark stickers on black contact paper or cardboard. Make a circle of cardboard and black paper and put star and planet glow in the dark stickers on it. Or paint wooden cutouts and decorate with fabric paint--write troop number, name of event, I love GS, etc. Some fabric paints glow in the dark.
43. Make friendship pins with beads on a safety pin.
44. Pipe cleaners--cut into quarters, wrap yarn around the middle to form a spider. Twist red and white pipe cleaners together to form candy canes. Make wreaths with pipe cleaners and decorate with ribbon, pom poms or sequins.
45. Worry dolls.
46. Pom Pom critters--Add eyes and feet and antenna if desired. Add beak and feathers for a bird, flippers for a seal, a trunk for an elephant.
47. Mini baskets, filled with tiny pom poms to look like an Easter basket. Or put small flowers in it.
48. Mini potpourri using lace ribbon and potpourri.
49. Felt pennants with activity name and date on them.
50. Peanut trolls, with pin on back.
51. Puzzle pins painted in hot colors, sealed with iridescent colors sprinkled on them.
52. Fuzzy dice made from soft foam cubes with marker dots hung from a pin.
53. Prismatic mylar, cut to make CDs, pasted onto cardboard.
54. Teddy graham cookies, spray painted gold, glued onto felt strips as medals.
55. Peanuts sprayed with polyurethane, pom pom wig, wiggle eyes, bean nose.
56. Magic wands--popsicle sticks, painted black with each end painted white.
57. Fans folded from wallpaper border remnants, glue lace on edge and ribbon rosette at base.
58. Felt kite, yarn for tail.
59. Toilet paper roll--straws cut into 1.5" sections, cut and glue toilet paper to fit, and run a piece of yarn through it.
60. Campfires made from cinnamon sticks and red, orange and yellow felt. Small rolled logs can be made from brown grocery bags.
61. Silk leaf with a rolled pipe cleaner in it to resemble a worm. Wrap a pipe cleaner around a thin paintbrush (Pencils work, but give fatter worms). Hot glue the worm to the leaf, add eyes and antenna if desired. Glue a pin to the other side.
62. Native American--beads threaded on yarn, with a small feather tied to one end. Also small strips of brown felt, glued to form headbands. Add a small feather and decorate with fabric paint. Teepee--frame formed with two toothpicks. Triangle of black felt glued to it. Then tan and cream-colored felt was wrapped around to form the teepee (Flat with only two toothpicks). Glue down--brown yarn was tied at top to secure it. Decorate with fabric paint.
63. Tiny plastic seasonal shapes available at craft stores. Have girls draw faces on them if desired. Attach string to them with safety pin.
64. Felt trefoils with troop number written in fabric paint.
65. Mini sit-upons.
66. Use netting and yarn to make mini dunk bags. Cut the netting in circles and have girls thread yarn through the top to make a drawstring. Maybe you could create mini dishes to put inside.
67. Bed Rolls: Take two pieces felt 2" x 4", 2 pieces of yarn 5-6", a safety pin, and Elmer's glue; Lay the pieces of felt on top of each other. Roll them up tight. Tie with yarn at ends. Attach pin with glue.
68. Eyelet trim (inch and a half wide). Cut into sections and glued to white ribbon makes a cute apron.
69. Small scraps of leather can make tiny saddles, using yarn and pipe cleaners for the stirrups.
70. Horseheads: Make horse heads out of pecans --glue on wiggle eyes, strips of colored felt for bridle, brown felt ears and forelock, added pin back and drew on mouth.

Taken in part from Mary Ussery-White, Pines of Carolina Council, taken from the Prodigy Girl Scout Bulletin Board.