



September

Welcome September September is a wonderful month full of special days and exciting changes! At the beginning of the month, we celebrate Labor Day, a day to relax and enjoy time with family and friends. Then, we have Grandparent's Day, a perfect time to show our grandparents how much we love them. On Make A Hat Day, everyone gets creative and makes fun and silly hats. Later in the month, we celebrate Johnny Appleseed Day, honoring a man who planted apple trees all across America. September also brings the start of fall, when the leaves on the trees change colors to beautiful reds, oranges, and yellows. It's a magical time to play outside and enjoy the crisp, cool air!

September 4—Grandparents Day

Background Information: Grandparent's Day on September 8 is a perfect time to make a special greeting card for your grandparents! You can use colorful paper, markers, stickers, and anything else you like to make your card bright and fun. Write a sweet message inside, like "I love you, Grandma and Grandpa!" or "You're the best grandparents ever!" You can also draw pictures of your favorite things to do together. Making a card shows how much you care and will make your grandparents feel super happy and loved!

Bouquet of Love

What you will need

- Small pictures of each youth (either take them or ask youth to bring them from home)
- Construction paper (variety of colors)
- Green pipe cleaners
- Glue
- Marking pens, glitter, and “fancy” paper (like used in scrapbooking)



What you will do:

1. Be sure that you have all of the pictures or be prepared for youth to draw him/herself
2. Distribute the pictures (remember that these are small) or the paper to draw on and have them cut a circle out around the face for the center of the flower



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3. Then have youth draw the flower shape onto the construction paper (big enough so the center picture can be used and then cutting the shape out.
4. They can then decorate the edge, or place that flower onto a large circle for background
5. The last steps have youth glue and/or tape on the stem, and glue on the picture. If you would like to use a flower pattern, one is below



Debrief:

- Why do you think it is important to remember your grandparents on this special day?
- If you don't have grandparents or they don't live close, who might you celebrate on this day?
- What advice would you give to someone else working on a Grandparent's Day Card?



September 11

Make A Hat Day, September 15

Background Information: Make A Hat Day, celebrated on September 15, 2024, is a fun and creative holiday where kids and adults get to make and wear their own unique hats! It's a day to let your imagination run wild as you design hats from paper, fabric, and other craft materials. Whether you make a silly, colorful hat or a fancy, sparkly one, it's all about having fun and being creative. Gather your friends and family, and see who can come up with the most fantastic hat!

Three Different Paper Hats for Kids to Make

Here are three different paper hats that children can make, with detailed directions for each. These hats are wearable and suitable for both girls and boys.

Pirate Hat

What you will need:

- Black construction paper or cardstock
- White construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- White crayon or chalk
- Tape

What you will do:

1. Create the Hat Base:
 - Take a black construction paper sheet and fold it in half horizontally.
 - Draw a large half-circle on the folded edge, making sure the straight edge is at the fold.
 - Cut along the curve to create a full circle when unfolded.
 - Refold the paper and cut a straight line from one folded edge to the opposite folded edge along the diameter. This will create two half-circle shapes.
2. Form the Hat:
 - Take one of the half-circle shapes and bring the corners together to form a cone shape. Adjust the size to fit the child's head.



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- Once you have the desired size, tape the inside seam to hold the cone shape.
- 3. Decorate the Hat:
 - Cut out a small skull and crossbones from white construction paper.
 - Glue the skull and crossbones to the front of the hat.
 - Use a white crayon or chalk to add any additional details, like an anchor or the child's name.
- 4. Add the Hatband:
 - Cut a strip of black construction paper that fits around the base of the hat.
 - Glue or tape the strip around the base to secure the hat's fit and add stability.

Princess/Prince Crown

What you will need:

- Colored construction paper (gold, silver, or any preferred color)
- Scissors
- Glue stick or tape
- Stickers, gems, or sequins for decoration
- Pencil
- Ruler

What you will do:

1. Create the Crown Base:
 - a. Measure the child's head circumference and add an extra inch for overlap.
 - b. Cut a strip of construction paper to the measured length and about 3-4 inches wide.
2. Design the Crown:
 - a. On one long edge of the strip, draw a series of triangles or points to create the crown's peaks.
 - b. Cut along the drawn lines to create the crown's peaks.
3. Decorate the Crown:
 - a. Decorate the crown with stickers, gems, sequins, or markers.
 - b. You can add glitter glue or other decorative items to make it more special.
4. Assemble the Crown:
 - a. Wrap the crown around the child's head to measure the fit.



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- b. Glue or tape the ends together to secure the crown.

Animal Ears Headband

What you will need:

- Construction paper (various colors depending on the animal)
- Scissors
- Glue stick or tape
- Stapler (optional)
- Pencil

What you will do:

1. Create the Headband:
 - a. Measure the child's head circumference and add an extra inch for overlap.
 - b. Cut a strip of construction paper to the measured length and about 1-2 inches wide for the headband base.
2. Design the Ears:
 - a. Depending on the animal (cat, bunny, bear, etc.), draw and cut out two ear shapes from the appropriate color of construction paper.
 - b. For example, for cat ears, draw two triangles; for bunny ears, draw long oval shapes.
3. Add Ear Details:
 - a. Cut smaller shapes from a different color to add inner ear details (e.g., pink inner ears for a bunny).
 - b. Glue the inner ear shapes onto the larger ear shapes.
4. Attach the Ears to the Headband:
 - a. Fold the base of each ear slightly to create a tab.
 - b. Glue or tape the tabs to the inside of the headband, spacing them appropriately.
 - c. For extra security, you can staple the ears to the headband.
5. Assemble the Headband:**
 - a. Wrap the headband around the child's head to check the fit.
 - b. Glue or tape the ends together to secure the headband.



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Debriefing:

- What did you enjoy about this activity?
- What were you thinking when you chose the hat you selected to make?
- What advice would you give someone else completing this activity?



September 18

Johnny Appleseed Day, September 26

Background Information: Johnny Appleseed was a kind and adventurous man who loved planting apple trees! He traveled far and wide, planting seeds and sharing stories with everyone he met. Because of him, many people enjoyed fresh apples from the trees he planted. We celebrate Johnny Appleseed in September to remember his love for nature and his generous spirit. It's a time to enjoy delicious apples and learn about the importance of taking care of our environment, just like Johnny did! Johnny Appleseed's real name was John Chapman. He was born on September 26, 1774, and became famous for planting apple trees and spreading apple seeds across several states in America. His work helped create apple orchards in many areas and earned him the nickname "Johnny Appleseed."

Paper Plate Apples

What you will need:

- Brown and green construction paper
- Scissors
- 2 paper plates for each youth
- Red tempera paint
- Paint brushes (perhaps a 1" foam brush"
- Glue



What you will do:

1. Divide the youth into groups of 4 and distribute the supplies
2. Explain they are going to make a paper plate apple
3. Explain the seeds which they will place in the apple will be cut out of brown construction paper (discuss the shape of the seeds). **Note:** apples are being harvested this month and sharing different types of apples with the children for snack (maybe with peanut butter) would be fun. They could also look at the seeds.
4. Explain they will write different ways to acknowledge yourself and others in a positive way (Great Job! Way to go! WOW!, Amazing! Etc.)
5. Explain they will also want to cut a stem out of the brown paper and a leaf from the green.
6. Explain to create the apple itself, they will want to paint both sides of both paper plates red. Explain they will paint one side of each plate, let it dry, and then paint the second side. (While paint is drying, youth can work on the seeds.)



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7. When the paint is dry, they will glue the two plates together creating a pocket for the seeds.
8. Have youth share their powerful words with one another.

Debriefing Questions

- What did you enjoy about this project?
- What advice would you give another youth doing this project?
- How might you use this technique to make something else?



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September 25

Puzzle Piece Tree

What you will need:

- Black construction paper
- Blue construction paper (1" smaller all the way around than the black construction paper backing)
- Brown paper bag for tree trunk
- Jigsaw puzzle pieces--small
- Orange, yellow, red, brown, dark green acrylic paint
- 1" foam brush
- Glue

What you will do:

Note: This is a two day project.

1. Divide youth into teams of 3-4
2. Distribute the supplies (puzzle pieces, paint, and paint brushes, and the blue paper –have youth write name on the back)
3. On day 1, have youth paint the puzzle pieces, yellow, orange, red, and brown. Also have youth paint the green for the grass across the bottom of the blue construction paper. Be sure that the youth use more than one color of paint on each of the puzzle pieces (it is okay if it smears over)
4. On day two have youth assemble the fall tree
5. Crinkle up the paper bag to make the trunk, glue to the blue background paper
6. Distribute the puzzle pieces for leaves on the tree and also falling to the ground and a few on the ground (see sample)
7. After the glue dries, youth can take the tree home



Debrief

- What advice would you give someone who was going to make this puzzle piece fall tree?
- What did you find easy? What was challenging?



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- What trees in your neighborhood are beginning to turn colors? Which are staying green all year long?