

Beavers My Outdoors Challenge Badge

Take Part In An Activity Using Natural Things Like Leaves, Bark, Twigs, Sand Or Rocks

Play Dough Forest with Animals®

By Samantha Eagle

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Requests for permission or further information should be addressed to Samantha Eagle, PO Box 245, La Manga Club Murcia, 30389, Spain.

Published by Samantha Eagle
PO Box 245, La Manga Club Murcia, 30389, Spain.
Email: sameagle@scoutingbadgeshelp.com

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My Outdoors Challenge Badge

Take Part In An Activity Using Natural Things Like Leaves, Bark, Twigs, Sand Or Rocks

Play Dough Forest with Animals[©]

WARNING

If you are using a colour printer and do not intend to print in colour you must change your print settings to “Greyscale” if you don’t do this the pictures will not print clearly (your print settings are found in the print dialog box).

Overview

For this part of the badge the children will collect leaves and twigs to make a forest with leaf animals. The base of the forest will be no cook play dough which they will make themselves.

Preparation Before The Meeting

1. Print out the ‘Leaf Animals’ and the ‘No Cook Playdough Forest’ handouts – you need one between 4 children
2. Gather materials see below

Materials Needed

- See ingredients for the playdough on the ‘No Cook Playdough Forest’ handout – if you are struggling for budget or you have all young children get them to do this in teams of two
- Thin glue for the leaf animals
- Felt pens to use for the eyes of the animals
- A little blue tac for each child (this will be used to attach the animal to the twig/tree)

Preparation At The Meeting

1. Lay out materials

Directions/Leader Speak

1. **Speak** - For the next task in your ‘My Outdoors Challenge’ badge you need to make something using natural things for example leaves. What we are going to do is to make a little forest with playdough and twigs then you are going to put a couple of animals in the forest. To make the animals you need to collect some leaves similar to the ones in the pictures I am going to show you in a minute. For the forest you are going to use homemade playdough as the base then collect some twigs to use as the trees.
2. **Action** – Handout the Leaf Animals and the No Cook Playdough Forest handouts
3. **Speak** - Look at these pictures to give you an idea of what leaves to try to collect and what you need for your forest. We are going outside to try to find
4. some leaves to match the pictures and also bring back some twigs for the forest
5. **Direction** – If you have all young children get them to do this in teams of two
6. **Speak** - Okay great now you’ve looked at the pictures let’s go outside and try to find some leaves and twigs for our animal forest. I’ll take the pictures with me so you can look at them if you need to

7. Once you are back...
8. **Direction** - Get them to make their leaf animals first using thin glue to put them together and set aside
9. **Direction** - Ideally now you would assign a leader/helper to each group of six and show them step by step how to make the playdough, they can follow you as you are doing it
10. **Direction** - Now they will start decorating their forest with their twigs and then use a little blue tac to stick the animals to one of the twig trees

Leaf Animals



No Cook Playdough Forest



Ingredients for the No Cook Playdough

- 2 cups plain flour
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup salt
- 2 tablespoons cream of tartar
- Up to 1.5 cups boiling water (adding in increments until it feels just right)

Optional

- Food colouring
- Few drops glycerine (adds more shine!)

Directions

- Mix the flour, salt, cream of tartar and oil in a large mixing bowl
- If using food colouring add to the boiling water then into the dry ingredients
- Stir continuously until it becomes a sticky, combined dough. Add the glycerine if you are using it
- Allow it to cool down then take it out of the bowl and knead it vigorously for a couple of minutes until all of the stickiness has gone. (This is the most important part of the process, so keep at it until it's the perfect consistency)
- If it remains a little sticky then add a touch more flour until just right

You can store this play dough in an air tight container for at least 6 months