

What can you do with a ball of string in your units?

Spider's web - the girls stand in a circle and one person holds (tightly!) the end of the string and throws the ball across the circle to another girl. This person then holds the string and throws the ball back to someone else across the circle, until everyone is holding the string and a spider's web has been formed. The fun part starts when they try to undo the web by throwing the ball of string in reverse.

Variation: **Web of friendship** - Ask the group (no more than 20 really, or it gets quite tangled) to sit/stand in a circle, give one person a ball of string. They say something nice about someone else in the group (e.g. I like the way that Anneka looks after the new Brownies in her six) and pass Anneka the ball of string. Continue as above. (A good idea to help learn names)

Baubles - This is a messy craft! Cover the work surface well with something you don't mind getting very messy! Mix 50/50 PVA glue and water in a container and blow up some balloons. Then dip the string in the glue mix and drape it around the balloons to make ornate bauble things! Leave to dry in a well ventilated place. When they are dry you can pop the balloons and pick it away. You can add some paint or glitter to the glue mix to make them more interesting.

Masks - nose: mix 50/50 PVA glue and water in a container. Cover an egg cup with silver foil. Pin and coil the string closely around it. Cover with the prepared PVA glue. Cover a bucket/bowl (that fits over your head) with foil and cover with string leaving big and small gaps to make it more interesting. Cover with prepared PVA glue and leave to dry. Attach the nose using more string. Make small/large eyes like "coaster" below.

Coasters - use string with PVA glue to coil around into a coaster shape.

Senses trail - This works well outside (although could easily be adapted for inside). Leaders lay out a trail of string and tie to trees. The string should be about hip height or thereabouts of the people who will be following the trail. They then tie things (e.g. lavender bag, plastic horse, bracelet, shoe etc) to the string as part of the trail. You then pair girls up, and one of each girl gets blindfolded, and the other guides them along the trail. The blindfolded girl has to work out what the items are along the trail. The other has to be responsible for ensuring the blindfolded girl does not trip etc.

Lanyards - Use string to make lanyards for camp using macrame, add a whistle or ring for ID tag to the end.

Mini pioneering - Use the string with broom handles/bamboo sticks to make washing up stands, drying racks, ladders etc.

Knots - use your string to tie knots or magic tricks!

Newspaper fashion - Split your group into teams of 4/5/6, give each group a couple of newspapers, a ball of string, 2m of tape and some scissors. They then have to make an outfit for their model (one of the group) to parade in a fashion show at the end.

Nail and string pictures - find patterns on the internet

Telephones - using tin cans and string pretend you are on the radio - chat about anything you like about Guiding. Tin cans with string are brilliant - once they got the hang of keeping the string taut and talking into the can in a normal voice.

Compass pictures - You will need: a mallet per team, lots of pegs and lots of string. Put a peg into the ground as a starting point. With one end of the string tie a knot around the peg. Stand behind the starting peg. Face North. Now you are ready to follow your list of bearings. Continue to wrap the string round each peg, keeping your string fairly tight.

DOG: 2E, 1N, 1SE, 2S, 4E, 1NE, 1E, 1SW, 2S, 1SW, 3S, 1W, 3N, 3W, 3S, 1W, 3N, 1W, 1S, 1W, 2N, 2E, 2N, 1W, 1NW, 1N

Cats cradle - some brilliant pictures at www.ifyoulovetoread.com/book/chten_cats1105.htm

Helpful Mice - Each child cuts out a mouse from a sheet of card and adds a piece of string for its tail. Every time they are helpful they tie a knot in the string to remind them. Bring them back another week to talk about what they did.

Camel racing - Fold a big piece of card in half lengthways and draw a camel on it so the hump is on the fold. Cut it out so that it opens like a book. Fold the feet to stick to a piece of base card (thick). Tie a long length of string to the base card at the front end, and the other end of the string to a cardboard tube. To race: wind the string onto the tube by turning the tube as fast as possible, this will pull the camel along the ground. Some time can be spent decorating the camels. All lengths of string and card board tubes must be the same to ensure a fair race.

Shooting Stars - Cut out a star from card, and firmly tape a straw to the back of it. Tie one end of the string to something suitable (eg door handle) and thread the string through the straw. Blow up the balloon and **do not** tie a knot in it. Hold on tight to the balloon neck and the other end of the string. Ask someone to tape the straw to the balloon. Let go of the balloon and see how far it will travel. Higher or lower the string next time for better results.

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