

What is the purpose of the Genius Kit activity?

By Baloo's Bugle

The object is to let the kids use their imaginations to come up with some of the most unbelievable creations from the junk they have. You will be amazed at the results!

How do you run a Genius Kit activity?

I have seen them run two different ways. First, as said above, is to give the kids a chance to pick their own items from a general junk bin and then let them work on making their creations. The other way is to give each boy an identical Genius Kit and have each one come up with his own creation. We also apply rules depending on how we are running the event. For example, when we've given the boys all the same items, we've said no painting and only the materials supplied and clear glue can be used. This keeps

them from adding to their creations beyond the "level playing field."

Finally, this activity doesn't lend itself to a large group setting. The hot glue and white glue can end up everywhere and might hurt someone. If you want to incorporate it into the Pack Meeting, have the boys work on them at home and bring them in for display and judging.

How do you judge the Genius Kits?

For either "method," we try to have enough categories that virtually all of the creations get ribbons. It isn't easy for the judges, let me tell you. Your best bet is to make sure you have ribbons or certificates for all participants and then you can come up with some Top Prizes.

Suggested categories:

Most Ingenious Best Workmanship

Most Unusual Most Useful

Most Original Best Invention

Most Uncommon Most Creative

Most Scientific Funniest

Largest Smallest

Use all categories or as many as suits your needs. Don't like these?? Make up your own. Keep in mind, the more categories, the more boys you are able to recognize.

Promote parent participation by selecting a kit committee to decide on articles to be included in the genius kit and to secure them, bag them, and arrange for distribution to the boys and fathers. Select a judging committee to obtain ribbons or make certificates for all entrants. If possible it would be best to have judges from outside the pack.

The genius kits should be handed out with plenty of time to give boys and parents time to work on the project (3 or 4 weeks). Also, each kit should have identical materials, but don't put too many items in it. A workable number of items is 15 to 20. Include in each kit a copy of the rules to be followed.

Materials may come from many places. First, use the people in the pack or den and roundtable staff. Places to consider are lumbar yards and printers who might have scrap material normally thrown away.

The following list of items can be found in most homes and are easily obtained for genius kits.

Cardboard	Dowels or sticks	Index cards
Nails Wire	coat hangers	Egg cartons
Cloth	Plastic spoons	Plastic or foam meat trays
String	Corks	Margarine tubs
Tin cans	Tacks	Lunch bags (paper)
Pop sticks	Wood blocks	Aluminum foil
Cotton balls	Nuts and bolts	Clay
Candles	Toothpicks	Sand paper
Paper clips	Colored paper	Cardboard tubes
Rubber bands	Plastic pop bottles	Yogurt containers
Wire	Safety pins	Oatmeal containers
Yarn	Jar lids	

Genius Kits (Pack 92 Rules)

Rules:

1. You may use all or part of the items in the box, including the box.
2. You may cut, fold, bend, etc., any item in the box, including the box. You may use all or part of the item or box.
3. You may use glue, paste, any kind of tape, staples, paint, crayons or markers. Nothing else may be added or used.
4. You do not have to use the entire kit. No points will be deducted if you do not use all of the items.
5. This may be a family project if you so desire, or it may be your creation only.
6. All projects will be judged for originality, craftsmanship and excellence at the November pack meeting.
7. **IMPORTANT:** Put your name on the bottom only of your project. Do not display your name on the top of the project; we want to keep this a secret for the judging.

REMEMBER: You may create anything you want with these kits. The more creative you make your project, the more points you will earn. Also, keep your project a secret until the judging at the pack meeting.

PARENTS: Please make sure the boys read these rules and follow them!

GOOD LUCK!