

## October 2021 Activity Guide

# MISSION CONSERVATION

### Mission Theme: Creepy Crawly

#### INDOOR Activity Graveyard Snack & Spider Crafts

What better way to get into the spooky season then with themed snacks and crafts! Some adult supervision may be required for different portions in each activity. Let your imagination slither, crawl, and fly free with these activities and make them as unique as you want! Below will be the basic materials and instructions you will need to complete each portion.

#### Supplies

##### Graveyard Dirt

- 2 cups cold milk
- 1 package (4 oz.) chocolate instant pudding
- 1 - 8 oz. container whipped topping, thawed
- 1 package (16 Oz) Oreos (crushed)
- Gummy worms or sour worms
- 10 plastic cups (8 oz.)

- Mix milk and pudding in bowl.
- Blend (about 2 minutes)
- Let stand for five minutes.
- Stir whipped topping into pudding very until it is all the same color.
- Place 1 tbsp. of the crushed cookies into the bottom of cups.
- Then add a 2 tbsp. of pudding to each cups.
- Repeat another layer of cookies, then pudding, and then cookies.
- Put cups into the refrigerator for about one hour to chill them.
- Add 2 worms to the top, eat!

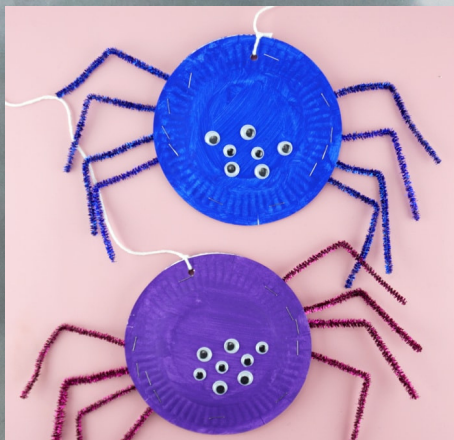


##### Spider Plates

- small paper plates (2 per spider)
- Paint or markers
- googly eyes (any size)
- Pipe cleaners or chenille stems
- scissors
- stapler
- glue

#### What to do

- Paint or color underside of plates and let them dry.
- Once dry, cut four chenille stems in half to make eight spider legs.
- Line up plates with paint facing out and staple together at top.
- Insert a leg between plates then staple it between the two plates. Repeat then staple plate shut.
- Bend each to look like spider legs.
- Glue 8 googly eyes.
- Punch a hole in top and tie string through as if it's coming down it's web.



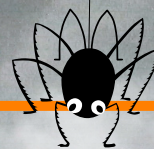
##### Weaving Webs

- Popsicle sticks
- Glue (or hot glue gun)
- Halloween colored paint
- Halloween colored yard/string
- Scissors
- Spider stickers (optional)

- Glue three popsicle sticks together.
- Paint the popsicle sticks.
- Once the paint has dried, cut off a long piece of yarn.
- Tie one end to a popsicle stick near center.
- Wrap yarn around each popsicle stick.
- Once done, tie the end to a popsicle stick. Leave tail for hanging the spider web.
- Add a spider to your web if you'd like.







## **Mission Theme: Creepy Crawly**

### Outdoor Activity Bug Hunt & Bat Prowl

Time to get outside! This season is no stranger to everything creepy and crawly. Bugs, bats, worms, and spiders are just some of the iconic critters associated with the spooky and ominous. Often used as a means to creep and spook those who are looking for a fright! These critters aren't just around during the spooky season however, they are all around us everyday! Lets get outside and see who we can find!

### What You Will Need

- A keen eye.
- Proper footwear (so you don't have any creepy crawlies go over your toes!).
- A stick or tool for flipping, shifting, and prodding.
- A light source.
- Camera for pictures!
- Pencil and paper to take down identifying notes for later.
- A sense of adventure!!!

### What to do

- The best time to start is about an hour before dusk. You don't have to go far, its likely there are many critters in your yard and around your home!
- The best places to look are under larger rocks, fallen trees/large limbs that have begun to rot, moist areas like hose connectors, gardens, loose bark, and near fungi.
- Use your flipping tool before lifting anything new (just in case there are unexpected critters hanging out).
- Take photos and write down what you see so you can identify on the computer or in a book who you have as yard neighbors!
- Once the sun has begun to set keep your eyes on any bright light sources that draw in swarms of flying insects. If you watch closely you may see a shape dash in and out of the swarm with an interesting flight pattern! These are bats, they do not always swoop through like a traditional bird and that's because they aren't a bird. They are the **ONLY** truly flighted mammal in the world!

### Conservation Message

Hopefully you have gotten to see and meet many new critters in your adventure! As we talked about earlier, these critters are often used to portray a sense of spooky, creepy, or scary and many folks write them off as just that. These critters however are very important to the world's many different ecosystems and are not often going to cause you any harm! As we also said before and as you hopefully just found out, they are everywhere and you have been living together side by side for a long time. An ecosystem can be very fragile and it relies on every living and non-living part no matter how big or small something may be. Every organism in an ecosystem has a specific role to play and niche to fill. Whether it be there to help pollinate, breakdown waste matter, help keep prey populations in check, or even be the food source for another organism that fills an equally important role in keeping the ecosystem healthy and thriving. So next time you are out and about and see something creepy and crawly just remember that both you and this critter have an important role to play in this wide world of ours!