Indoor Activity: Bird Seed Ornaments

The simple definition of conservation is "prudent use without waste." In the spirit of world conservation, let’s use some resources to benefit the migratory birds which may be flocking near your neighborhood! We are going to be making birdseed ornaments. You will be able to hang these birdseed ornaments on trees outside in temperatures 55 degrees Fahrenheit and below, perfect for the winter season. With cookie cutters, the ornaments can be any shape, spreading some holiday cheer to the great outdoors. This hands-on activity is also beneficial to the birds, giving them a reliable snack as they migrate for the winter. The birds may also remember finding food in your backyard and come back every year!

**Benefits**

- Food for migrating birds
- Fun for all ages
- Spreading holiday cheer
- Simple and easily replicated

**Supplies**

- 2.5 cups of Outdoor Songbird Mix birdseed
- 2 packs of unflavored gelatin
- 2 tablespoons of corn syrup
- 1 cup water
- Cookie cutter outlines
- Drinking straws cut into 2" pieces
- Twine

**What to do**

- Add 1/2 cup of water and the unflavored gelatin into a large mixing bowl.
- Add 1/2 cup boiling water to the gelatin mixture and stir until the gelatin is completely dissolved.
- Add corn syrup and birdseed into the mixture and stir well.
- Place the bowl in the refrigerator for about 10 minutes until the liquid firms up enough that it won’t leak out from under the cookie cutters.
- Set your cookie cutters onto a parchment lined baking sheet and fill them with spoon-fulls of the birdseed mixture
- Press the drinking straws into each of the shapes leaving at least 1/2" of space between the hole and the edge of the shape.
- Place the ornaments in the fridge overnight and then remove the straws. Add twine to hang from trees.
Outdoor Activity: Visiting a National Park

A large part of worldwide conservation has been the development of National Parks and game reserves. These areas allow for humans to visit and enjoy these areas while also protecting them from overuse or human development. While several National Parks are closed due to the winter weather, some stay open and allow for visitors year-round. Going to a National Park is seeing conservation put into use with your own eyes. Make sure to do your research and stay safe on your trip to a National Park!

Additional Supplies (Optional)

- Hiking Boots
- Bug Spray
- Sunscreen
- Hat
- Snacks
- Camera
- Phone
- Compass
- Change of Socks
- First Aid Kit
- Water
- Winter clothing