

LEATHERWORK

Prepared by:

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Target Group:

Any Scout

Times Allotted:

Five, one-hour blocks

Pre-Requisites:

None

Materials Needed—Staff:

Leatherworking tools (punches, scissors, design tools)
Leather reconditioning materials (ie. leather polish and rags)
Several baseball gloves or other leather objects
Leatherwork Merit Badge book
Leather scraps to practice techniques
Leather for projects
Project pattern
Two-part hammer rivets

Materials Needed—Scout:

Leatherworking Kit (From Trading Post: 3 piece Craft lace, hook, keyring)
Encourage scouts to bring own leather articles

Instructional Outcomes:

Scouts will learn proper techniques in the art of leatherworking. In so doing they will fashion at least one object from leather as well as demonstrate proper safety procedure when using leatherworking tools. Scouts will also demonstrate various types of knowledge with regards to the history of leather, proper care of leather articles, and the process from which leather is made.

MONDAY

Requirement 1

- a. *Explain to your counselor the hazards you are most likely to encounter while using leatherwork tools and materials, and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, or lessen these hazards.*
- b. *Show that you know first aid for injuries or illnesses that could occur while working with leather, including minor cuts and scratches, puncture wounds, ingested poisoning, and reactions from exposure to chemicals such as dyes, cements, and finishes used in leatherworking.*

- **Show scouts the various leatherworking tools and describe their uses**
- **Give a short review of first aid techniques possibly needed in this activity**
- **Discuss each carving tool's name and use. Have scouts tell you tool names from random selection**
- **Let scouts handle the tools and practice using them on scrap leather**

Requirement 2

Explain to your counselor

- a. *Where leather comes from*
- b. *What kinds of hides are used to make leather*
- c. *What are five types of leather*
- d. *What are the best uses for each type of leather*

- **Go over each of these points with the scouts**
- **After each point has been covered end the activity with a question and answer period allowing the scouts to demonstrate knowledge of what you have discussed**

Make sure scouts go to the Trading Post to get their Leatherwork Kit.

TUESDAY

Requirement 4

Braid or plait an article out of leather, vinyl lace, or paracord.

- **Show scouts how to braid a simple 4 strand lanyard and have each scout braid their own lanyard of at least 2 inches**

Requirement 5

Do ONE of the following:

- ~~*a. Learn about the commercial tanning process. Report about it to your merit badge counselor.*~~
- ~~*b. Tan the skin of a small animal. Describe the safety precautions you will take and the tanning method that you used.*~~
- c. Recondition or show that you can take proper care of your shoes, a baseball glove, a saddle, furniture, or other articles of leather. Discuss with your counselor the advantages or disadvantages of leather vs. synthetic materials.**
- ~~*d. Visit a leather-related business. This could be a leathercraft supply company, a tannery, a leather goods or shoe factory, or a saddle shop. Report on your visit to your counselor.*~~

- **Using leather care products, show scouts how to condition a baseball glove (use of baseball gloves is convenient and easy), leather boot, or wallet**
- **Let each scout recondition their own leather pieces or some provided by instructor**

WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY

Requirement 3

Make one or more articles of leather that use at least five of the following steps:

- a. Pattern layout and transfer***
- b. Cutting leather***
- c. Punching holes***
- d. Carving or stamping surface designs.***
- e. Applying dye or stain and finish to the project.***
- f. Assembly by lacing or stitching***
- g. Setting snaps and rivets***
- h. Dressing edges***

- **Allow scouts to use entire activity period to work on project**
- **Run through the tool names at the start of each day**
- **Scouts can also finish their lanyard projects**