



# CRAFTMAS

*Craft . Snack . Sleigh* **KIT**



Youth Work Ireland

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# INTRODUCTION

Get ready to unleash peak holiday energy with the Craftmas Kit – your all-in-one box of festive chaos, creative fun, and snack-fueled joy. Inside, you'll find easy crafts, group games, and treats designed to spark laughs, memories, and maximum sleigh-age. Whether you're crafting with friends, hosting a cozy hangout, or just channeling your inner elf, this kit brings the vibes, the goodies, and all the merry magic you need to make this season unforgettable.

Tag us on Facebook: **Youth Work Ireland** and Instagram: **@youthworkireland**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*This pack was designed by Geraldine Moore, Head of Voluntary Clubs and National Programmes, and Marie Danaher, Youth Work for All Coordinator in Youth Work Ireland.*



An Roinn Oideachais  
agus Oige  
Department of Education  
and Youth





# CRAFTS

# CHRISTMAS SNOW GLOBE



## *What you need:*

- Glass jar with tight fitting lid
- Boiled water, use when cool
- Glycerin (slows down the snow fall, available in most chemists and craft shops)
- Silver glitter (avoid the ultra fine glitters, they tend to float)
- Small waterproof figure (eg. Christmas Cake decoration)
- Plastecine
- Festive ribbon, string or rope
- Glue

## *What to do:*

1. Check to make sure that the ornament you have chosen will fit within the diameter of your jar.
2. Place the plastecine inside the centre of the lid of the jar and stick the ornament to it. Make sure that it is high enough to see when you attach the glass.
3. Fill the jar with the boiled water that has cooled, and then add a teaspoon of glitter. Put the lid on and shake it to see if you like the effect. If the snow is too sparse, add a little more glitter. Add a few drops of glycerine and test it again, The glycerine should slow the rate of the snowfall quite nicely.

# PIPE CLEANER GARLANDS/ DECORATIONS

## *What you need:*

- What you need:
- A lot of Coloured/ Glitter Pipe Cleaners
- Glue/ Glue Dots for Bedazzling
- Bedazzling Jewels



## *What to do:*

Have your young people use pipe cleaners to make their own ornaments, gift wrap or even beautiful garlands. Wrap pipe cleaners around gifts for unique gift giving or create a garland by looping pieces together and twisting the ends. You can even bedazzle ornaments by twisting pipe cleaners into different shapes and weaving them through the ornaments. Stars can be made by shaping the pipe cleaners and then adding a piece of string to hang from a tree or mantle. Pipe cleaners come in all colours and sizes so are perfect for crafting purposes. Young people could create a giant garland to hang in their club space or to decorate the club/ group Christmas tree. Pipe Cleaners are also great for making small animals i.e Bunnies, cats etc.

# TOY SOLDIER

## *What you need:*

- Round top clothes peg
- Black and red paints
- Black and red felt tip markers
- Thin gold cord
- Small black pom pom
- Tiny red pom pom
- Small black beads - or any thin black circular material you can use as buttons
- Scraps of black felt
- Glue

## *How to Make*

1. Paint the bottom of the clothes peg red. Paint the upper section black. Allow to dry.
2. Cut two sections of felt for the arms. Start with a rectangle, round off one end for the bottom of the arm, and cut a slight diagonal line at the top.
3. Glue arms to the sides of the soldier.
4. Glue the small black pom pom on the top of the head for a hat. Glue the tiny red pom pom on the top of the black one for decoration.
5. Cut a small section of gold cord to use as a chin strap for the hat and glue in place.
6. Cut two sections of gold braid to fit down the side of the legs and glue in place.
7. Glue two beads on the soldier's front as buttons. Glue a circular section of braid to the back and embellish with more "buttons".
8. With the black marker, make small dots for the eyes. Use red marker to make a small dot for the mouth. You could add a black moustache if you wish.

***That's it! A miniature toy soldier to hang on your tree! Use your imagination to add extras - you could position the arms to hold a tiny drum, or a flute, or even a tiny Christmas package for the soldier to hold.***



# BUN/ CUPCAKE/ SWEET PAPER DECORATIONS



## *What you need:*

- Colourful paper bun cases/ cupcake paper cases/ sweet cases
- Glue Dots
- Glue Stick (optional)
- Sticky Jewells or glitter(optional)

## *How to Make:*

1. Layer the various coloured cases on top of each other placing glue dots in between each layer.
2. Layer about 10 cases on top of each other.
3. Finally add a piece of string with some glue dots to secure in place, to hang on the Christmas tree!

**N.B** If you want to add some creativity to the cases, shapes can be cut into the paper cases prior to layering, or some stick-on jewels can be added also.

# SALT DOUGH ORNAMENTS

## *What you need:*

- 1 Cup Salt
- 2 Cups Flour
- 1 Cup Warm Water
- Rolling Pin
- Christmas Cookie Cutters
- Paint/ Markers to Decorate.

## *How to Make:*

1. Mix salt, flour, and water to create salt dough.
2. Roll it out to ¼ inch.
3. Cut out shapes with cookie cutters (place hole if needed for hanging)
4. Use paint or markers to decorate.



# CANVAS ART

Christmas Tree, Snowflake,  
Snowman etc.



*What to do:*

**Art canvas boards are available relatively cheap in most euro stores, art supply stores and bookstores. They should be either A5 or A4 size for this activity. Felt squares can also be found in various stores.**

1. Each young person paints their canvas (remember you will be sticking items to the canvas to create the picture) a colour of their choice.
2. When the canvas is dry, using markers, paint, jewels, buttons, felt create a Christmas themed picture.
3. Trees, snowmen, snowflakes, etc can be cut from felt and stuck to the canvas with glue. After the activity, young people could have an exhibition of their work for a club Christmas night.

*What you need:*

- Art Canvas Boards
- Felt Squares
- Paint
- Art Paint Brushes
- Selection of Buttons, Stick on Jewels, Markers, String, Pipe Cleaners etc

# STAINED GLASS WINDOW DECORATIONS



*What to do:*

1. Use black construction paper and colored tissue paper.
2. Cut out festive shapes in the centre of black construction paper (can be big or small shapes).
3. Behind the construction paper, place the coloured tissue paper (to mimic-stained glass) and use the glue dot to secure. This can be layered to create different colours.
4. Place string on back of picture.
5. Hang on windows for a beautiful effect.

*What you need:*

- What you need:
- Black Construction Paper
- Coloured Tissue
- Glue Dots
- Scissors
- String

# SWEET SMELLING POMANDER



## *What you need:*

- Lime, Lemon or Orange
- Whole Cloves
- Festive Ribbon
- Needle

## *How to Make:*

1. Make a hole with a needle in a piece of fruit then place a clove in the hole. Continue this all over the piece of fruit making sure that the clove heads touch each other.
2. When the whole piece of fruit is covered, tie a ribbon around it and hang it in the doorway, hang it from a hook on the wall or put it in a bowl with greenery to make a centre piece.
3. The aroma will be wonderful.

# PAPER CHAIN GARLANDS



## *What you need:*

- Craft paper/ Gift Wrap or Tissue paper
- Stapler/ Sellotape/ Glue or Glue Dots
- Glitter if required

## *How to Make*

1. Cut 3 x 6 inch and 3 x 4.5inch strips of paper (different size loops will add personality to your garland). Add Glitter if required at this stage.
2. Loop the paper together and staple/ Sellotape/ glue/ glue dot the ends to create a circle.
3. Thread the next strip into the loop and secure the ends and keep going until you've created your desired length of garland.
4. Hang it in your club/ group space.
5. This is a great activity to get your group working together.



# CHRISTMAS GAMES

# SANTA'S SHOPPING LIST

The first person says, "Santa is bringing a \_\_\_ for Christmas," and fills in the blank (e.g., toy train, teddy bear, lego, x box, mobile phone, cat, dog etc).

The next person repeats the phrase and adds their own item.

The next person repeats the phrase and adds the previous persons item plus their own item.

The game continues until someone forgets an item or messes up the order.

The game restarts until one person is left.



# CHRISTMAS THEMED MOVIE TRIVIA



## *What you need:*

- Quiz questions (8 – 10 rounds of 8-10 questions)
- Quiz Master
- Score Keeper/s
- Flip Chart to keep score
- Markers and Pens
- Answer sheets for each round
- Person to mark the answers
- A small prize for the winning team

## *What to do:*

1. Prepare trivia questions about popular Christmas movies (e.g., "What's the Grinch's dog's name?" or "In Home Alone, where does Kevin's family go for Christmas?").
2. Nominate a Quiz master to ask the questions and a score keeper (flip chart)
3. Divide into teams
4. Select Christmas Themed team names
5. Keep score.

**Some Christmas Movies are: Santa Claus, The Polar Express, Elf, The Nightmare before Christmas, A Christmas Carol, Home Alone 2, The Grinch etc)**

# CHRISTMAS Pictionary

It's Pictionary, but made festive! For this easy game, the organiser will come up with Christmas characters, icons, and imagery, then write each on a slip of paper.

1. Break into teams.
2. Fold the papers and toss them in a bowl, then each team take turns picking one and trying to draw it for their team.

# CLINGFLIM/ GIFT WRAP BALL GAME

1. Wrap sweets or small prizes in layers of wrap.
2. Form a circle and go around the circle throwing the wrap ball.
3. Play cheesy Christmas songs and when the music stops that person opens a layer. Continue until the last prize.



## COSTUME CONTEST: LOOKS THAT SLEIGH

Christmas Fun! Have a dress up night (disco night) where your young people come dressed as a Christmas character/ theme e.g Santa Claus, a reindeer, a donkey, the Grinch, a Christmas star, tinsel, or even a Christmas tree! Gather all the nominees together and take a group picture. You can have a panel to select the best costume, most creative etc and award the winner/ winners.



## MINUTE TO WIN IT CHRISTMAS RUDOLPH RACE



### *What you need:*

- Red pom poms
- Spoons
- Vaseline
- Rudolph poster

### *How to Play:*

1. Players have to race to be the first person to put a red pom-pom on Rudolph's nose (make sure to put a bit of Vaseline on his nose as well) on the other side of the room.
2. Place the Rudolph Poster on a Wall.
3. Give each player a red pom-pom and a spoonful of Vaseline.
4. To play, players must dip their nose into the spoonful of Vaseline then get the red pom-pom to stick to the Vaseline on their nose.
5. Once the red pom is on their nose, they must move across the room and stick it to Rudolph's nose. **The catch? They can't use their hands at any time.**

The background is a vibrant holiday-themed illustration. At the top, there are three strings of lights with various ornaments including red and gold circles, green pine trees, and gold stars. Below the lights are several large, stylized snowflakes in shades of gold and yellow, with intricate patterns and radiating lines. At the bottom, a row of gift boxes is depicted in various colors and patterns, including red, blue, black, and white, with different ribbon styles. The entire scene is set against a white background with scattered gold dots and a dark red border.

# SNACKS

# HOT CHOCOLATE GIFT JARS

## *What you need:*

- Small Clean Jam Jars/  
Kilner Jars
- Cocoa Powder
- Marshmallows
- Chocolate Chips
- Ribbon

## *How to Make:*

In the Jar:

1. Layer cocoa mix
2. Layer marshmallows
3. Layer chocolate chips in a jar
4. Seal the Jar
5. Tie a Ribbon around the Jar



# RICE KRISPIE CHRISTMAS TREES



## *What you need:*

- 50g rice krispies
- 25g margarine or butter
- 100g mini marshmallows
- 10 2 regular size marshmallows and toothpicks
- Green food colouring
- Smarties, or any other small colourful candies
- Toothpicks

## *How to Make:*

1. Melt margarine/butter in a saucepan, add mini marshmallows and cook over low heat stirring constantly until syrupy.
2. Remove from heat, add green food colouring until a fairly dark green colour. Add rice krispies and stir until well coated.
3. Shape into conical forms with buttered hands.
4. When cooled, stick a toothpick through a marshmallow and stick into the bottom to serve as the tree's base.
5. Decorate with colourful sweets.



# CHRISTMAS BISCUIT TRUFFLES



## *What you need:*

- 175g digestive biscuit crumbs
- 50g/2oz raisins, chopped
- 50g/2oz roasted hazelnuts, chopped
- 50g/2oz ground almonds
- 75g/3oz blackcurrant jam
- 1 orange, zest only, chopped very finely
- 150g/5oz plain chocolate.

**To Decorate:** White marzipan, angelica and glaze cherries

## *How to Make:*

1. Mix the biscuit crumbs, raisins, nuts, jam and orange zest together in a bowl.
2. Add sufficient water to make a fairly stiff mixture.
3. Form the mixture into walnut sized balls.
4. Melt the chocolate in a bowl over a pan of hot water. Coat each truffle individually and rest on a foil covered board until set.
5. Decorate the top of each truffle by taking small pieces of white marzipan and rolling it out into an uneven shape, then press onto the top of each truffle to resemble icing. Add bits of glaze cherry to resemble berries and angelica to represent holly.

# CORNFLAKE WREATHS

## *What you need:*

- 2 Tbsp. salted butter
- 20 large marshmallows
- Green food
- 3 cups cornflakes
- Red M&M's minis (about 2 Tbsp.)



## *How to Make:*

1. Place marshmallows and butter in a microwave-safe bowl; microwave, uncovered, on high until butter is melted and marshmallows are puffed, about 45 seconds. Tint with green food coloring. Stir in cornflakes.
2. On a waxed paper-lined baking sheet, divide mixture into 8 portions. With buttered hands, working quickly, shape each portion into a 3-in. wreath. Decorate immediately with M&M's, pressing to adhere. Let stand until set.

# SNOWMAN OREO BALLS



## *What you need:*

- 1 pack (14.3oz.) Oreo cookies
- 8 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 10-12oz. white baking chips, melted
- 15 mini Oreo cookies
- 30 Rolo candies, unwrapped
- Assorted sprinkles for eyes, nose and mouth

## *How to Make:*

1. Pulse cookies in a food processor until fine crumbs form. Add cream cheese; pulse just until blended. Refrigerate, covered, until firm enough to shape.
2. Shape mixture into 1-in. balls; place on waxed paper-lined baking sheets. Freeze, covered, several hours or overnight.
3. Dip balls in melted chips; allow excess to drip off. Return to pans. Disassemble Oreo cookie sandwiches. Remove and discard filling or save for another use. Top dipped ball with a cookie and attach 1 Rolo candy to the top of each miniature Oreo with melted white baking chips to make a hat. Let stand until set. Make snowman face with sprinkles. Store in covered containers in the refrigerator.

# CHRISTMAS COOKIES

## *What you need:*

- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 -  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp salt
- Tinted frosting, colored sugars, edible glitter and nonpareils



## *How to Make:*

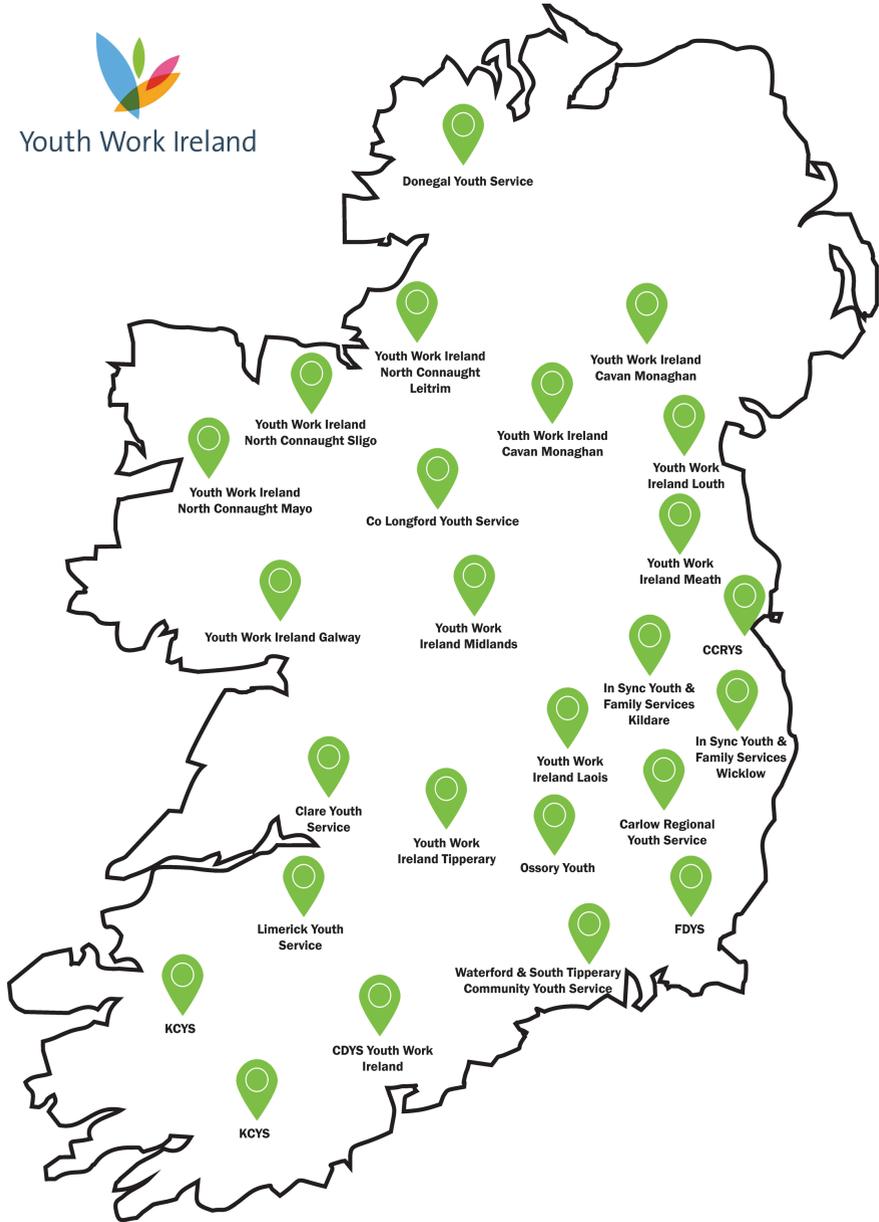
1. In a large mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs and vanilla; mix well. Combine the flour, baking powder and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Chill until firm, 1 hour.
2. On a lightly floured surface, roll out dough to 1/4-in thickness. Cut out with Christmas cookie cutters of your choice. Using a floured spatula, transfer cookies to greased baking sheets. Bake at 375° until lightly browned, 8-10 minutes. Cool completely on wire racks.
3. Decorate cookies with frosting and colored sugars.

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