

Silver Award Girl's Lesson Plan for an All Mothers Are Special Project & Workshop

My Silver Award is called "All Mothers Are Special." My Silver Award benefitted the moms and children of My Sisters' Place in White Plains and another women's shelter in the Bronx that needed help getting supplies for children to make their moms a gift for Mother's Day.

I heard about children who were not able to make their moms gifts for Mother's Day and I decided that I wanted to help. This project was especially important to me because I really appreciate my mom and I know that most children do too. I wanted to help the children be able to show their moms appreciation even though they did not have resources to make something for their moms. This was important to me because I thought it would make the children happy to be able to give their moms a gift on Mother's Day and it would also make the moms feel happy to receive a gift on Mother's Day. It would also be a nice way to get self-care items to the moms.

You can use this lesson plan as a guide for any collection that benefits an organization that you choose and that agrees to be the beneficiary of your project. It specifically works well if you are running a collection for toiletries that benefits moms.

STEPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROJECT:

The first step to starting the project is to determine which organizations would like to receive a donation of toiletries.

The second step is to have the organization agree to be the beneficiary of your project.

The third step is to contact numerous people and organizations in and outside of your community and ask if you can have collection bins at their locations and if you can run blurbs in their online blasts or send home fliers. Examples of these types of places include schools, schools of religion, etc.

The fourth step is to place the bins in the permitted locations.

The fifth step is to run workshops sharing your idea while engaging the participants. You can lead workshops at your school, with younger scout troops, etc. You can go to a Girl Scout leader meeting and present your idea and ask people who may be interested to sign up on the signup sheet that you have prepared and brought with you.

The sixth step is to schedule the workshops with the people who request them. Make sure that you respond in a timely manner and that you set reasonable expectations of your time. When you set up your workshop, you can mention that you gladly accept new, unused donations of toiletries from the people who are attending the workshop. The donations really add up and in my case were very generous.

The seventh step is to prepare for your workshops. Buy the necessary materials, listed below. Make sure you have enough toiletry items to assemble.

The eighth step is to make a script to follow. I typed up exactly what I was going to say and it really made the workshops much easier.

The ninth step is to have your workshop on its scheduled day. Some pointers – email the contact person the night or two before your workshop to confirm that you are still meeting. Prepare and pack up your materials. I usually had to bring 3 to 4 bags with me. One bag had all of the soap making supplies. One to two bags (depending on the size of the troop) had the donations, etc. One bag had all of the supplies for the scouts to make cards. I also brought a sample of what the Ziploc bag that the child at the shelter will receive and a sample of what the package will look like after the child has made the package for his/her mom.

There are four parts to my Silver Award workshops.

First, I share my project idea with the scouts.

Second, I make soaps with the scouts for them to be able to bring home to their own moms.

Third, the scouts and I assemble packages of donated toiletries/self-care items for the children in the shelters along with a card for the child to make for his/her mom.

Fourth, the scouts make cards with papers, markers, stickers and envelopes for their own moms.

The First Part of My Workshop

The first part of my workshop was telling the scouts about my project and who it benefitted like I mentioned at the beginning of this lesson plan.

The Second Part of My Workshop

The second part of my workshop is making soap with the scouts so that while they are helping a child make a gift for his/her mom, the scout is also leaving with a gift for her own mom.

The following is a set of instructions on how I made soap with the scouts in my workshops.

Soap Making:

What you need:

- 1 package clear glycerin soap base (available on Amazon.com)
- 1 set of colorful soap dyes (available on Amazon.com)
- 1 essential oil/fragrance (I used lavender and that worked well but you can be creative and try other nice scents) (available on Amazon.com)
- 2 candy molds (I used molds in the shape of flowers that are used for chocolate – they worked great; I bought them at Joanne’s but they can be found on Amazon.com too.) Photos of all the supplies I used can be found on the next page.
- 1 or 2 – 4 cup Pyrex measuring cup(s)
- 1 butter knife to cut the block of glycerin soap base
- wooden craft stick to stir the melting glycerin
- 1 cookie sheet to put the molds on so that you can move them easily

How to make the soaps:

1. Start off by having everybody wash their hands.
2. Cut the glycerin soap base into cubes. (The one that I used, photo included, had lines so you could see the separation from one cube to another). One cube is equal to approximately one soap depending on the mold. For example, if the troop you are working with has 22 girls, I would use 25 cubes of glycerin soap base so that there is enough for each girl to have one soap and there will be a handful of extras in case there are extra people there.

3. Put the glycerin cubes into microwave safe dish. (I used 4 cup Pyrex measuring cups.) Put the Pyrex measuring cup into the microwave for 30 seconds. Take the Pyrex out of the microwave and stir the soap base. Put the Pyrex back in the microwave for another 30 seconds. Take it out again and stir. If the soap base is not completely melted, then put the Pyrex back in the microwave for 10 seconds. Check again and stir. If it still is not completely melted, try for another 10 seconds. When the soap is completely melted, carefully remove from the microwave. Be careful, it is hot liquid!!
4. Once the glycerin is completely melted, add a couple of drops of the troop's desired color until the color is the shade that they want. It works best with very few drops of color (5-6 drops). If the troop is large, I would have two Pyrex containers and then you can do two colors. I usually asked the girls to vote on the color choices. I would have the girls take turns each putting a couple of drops in the melted glycerin base.
5. Have the girls take turns adding the essential oil, only one dropper full. If you add more than one dropper full, it takes the soaps much longer to set.
6. Once the color and scent is added, you can now pour the base into the molds. (I used a Pyrex measuring cup with a spout so it was easier to pour into the molds). The girls would take turns carefully pouring. Be careful, it is hot liquid!! Make sure that the base is not hot before you let the girls pour it into the molds.
7. Now it should take about 30 minutes for the soaps to set; you can put them in a fridge or freezer if you want to quicken up the process. You will know they are done because they are completely hardened.

Pictures of the products I used to make the soaps:



Clear glycerin soap base
Flower soap mold



Lavender essential oil and dropper
Dye



Soap

The Third Part of My Workshop:

Have the Scouts/Participants Assemble the packages for the children in the shelters:

What you'll need:

- Gallon-sized Ziploc bags
- Donations of any travel sized toiletries or basically any new self-care products that people donate as long as they comply with the requisites of the organization that is the beneficiary. (All bags will not be the same considering all of the different donation sources.)
- Card stock cut in half and then folded in half with a hole punched in one of the top corners
- Cellophane gift bags
- Ribbon

- Colored pencils or pens or markers (so that the children in the shelters can decorate the blank card that your troop puts in the package)
- Small instruction sheet for the child to be able to use, if s/he can read

How to actually put the bags together:

1. Put one of each toiletry in each Ziploc bag.
2. Put one piece of ribbon in each Ziploc bag. (Make it long enough so it can tie around the gift bag.) (You can cut one piece of ribbon as a sample and then put safety scissors out so that the scouts can cut the ribbon themselves and use the one you cut as a model to see how long it should be.)
3. Put one cellophane gift bag into each Ziploc bag.
4. Take the half piece of cardstock and fold it in half (hamburger style), then hole punch one of the top corners and put it into your Ziploc bag.
5. Put one or two colored pencils into the Ziploc bag.
6. Lastly, put a small instruction sheet in the Ziploc bag.

The Fourth Part of My Workshop

Have the participants use card stock, markers, colored pencils/pens, crayons, stickers and envelopes to make cards for their own moms.

Make sure that you thank the participants and tell them that you know that what they did during your workshop will make many kids and moms in the shelters very happy.

The tenth step to my project is to send a thank you email to the contact person of the group that you worked with and tell them how much you appreciate the opportunity to work with their troop.

The eleventh step is once you have had all of your workshops you need to schedule and bring the assembled packages to your beneficiary organization.

Once you have completed the eleventh step, all you have to do is do your paper work, make sure that you have completed all of the requirements and thank all of the people who made your Silver Award Project possible and successful.