



Fall 2025

The Manitou GIRL



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On the cover...

Girl Scout Troop 8453 participated in Girl Scouts Love State Parks weekend by hiking at Kettle Moraine State Forest! Great job Girl Scouts!

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Just for Girl Scouts!

In this section, you'll get to hear about all the new and exciting things in Girl Scouting, explore incredible opportunities, and find fun events made just for you.

Thanks for a great State Parks Weekend!

Our Girl Scouts had the best time exploring our beautiful local State Parks. Every year, on the second weekend of September, Girl Scouts participate in Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend. This year, we had more than 170 girls from our Manitou Council participate! Some activities that our Girl Scouts did were trail walks, scavenger hunts run by State Parks, paddleboarding, swimming, picnics, and one Troop even got to learn about snakes on a nature trail! Great job Girl Scouts, keep up the great work. See you next year!



Girl Scout Destinations



Destinations

Girl Scout Destinations are the ultimate adventure for individual Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts! Make friends from all over the country as you travel with Girl Scouts from different states. There's a unique, life-changing experience for every girl.

You'll definitely want to experience [a Girl Scout Destination](#)! You can apply now for Destinations. Don't wait to apply — popular Destinations fill up quickly! With so many options, you're bound to find the adventure of your dreams. Manitou Council offers scholarships and assists girls in raising funds for Destinations, so don't let cost stop you from applying.

Thanks for a great summer!

Our Camp Director, camp counselors, and staff, and all of us here at Manitou Council want to thank all of you who came to Camp Evelyn and Camp Manitou this summer! Camp was a place of adventure, friendship, and the great outdoors. We're already hard at work planning for next summer and can't wait to see you all soon! Here's just a few of our favorite memories:





Troop Takeover

Who is ready to take over Girl Scouts of Manitou Council's Instagram? You'll get to post to our stories and feed with your awesome Girl Scout activities and adventures! We can't wait to see your troop in ACTION! If you have any questions, please email: cassie@gsmanitou.org.



More information:

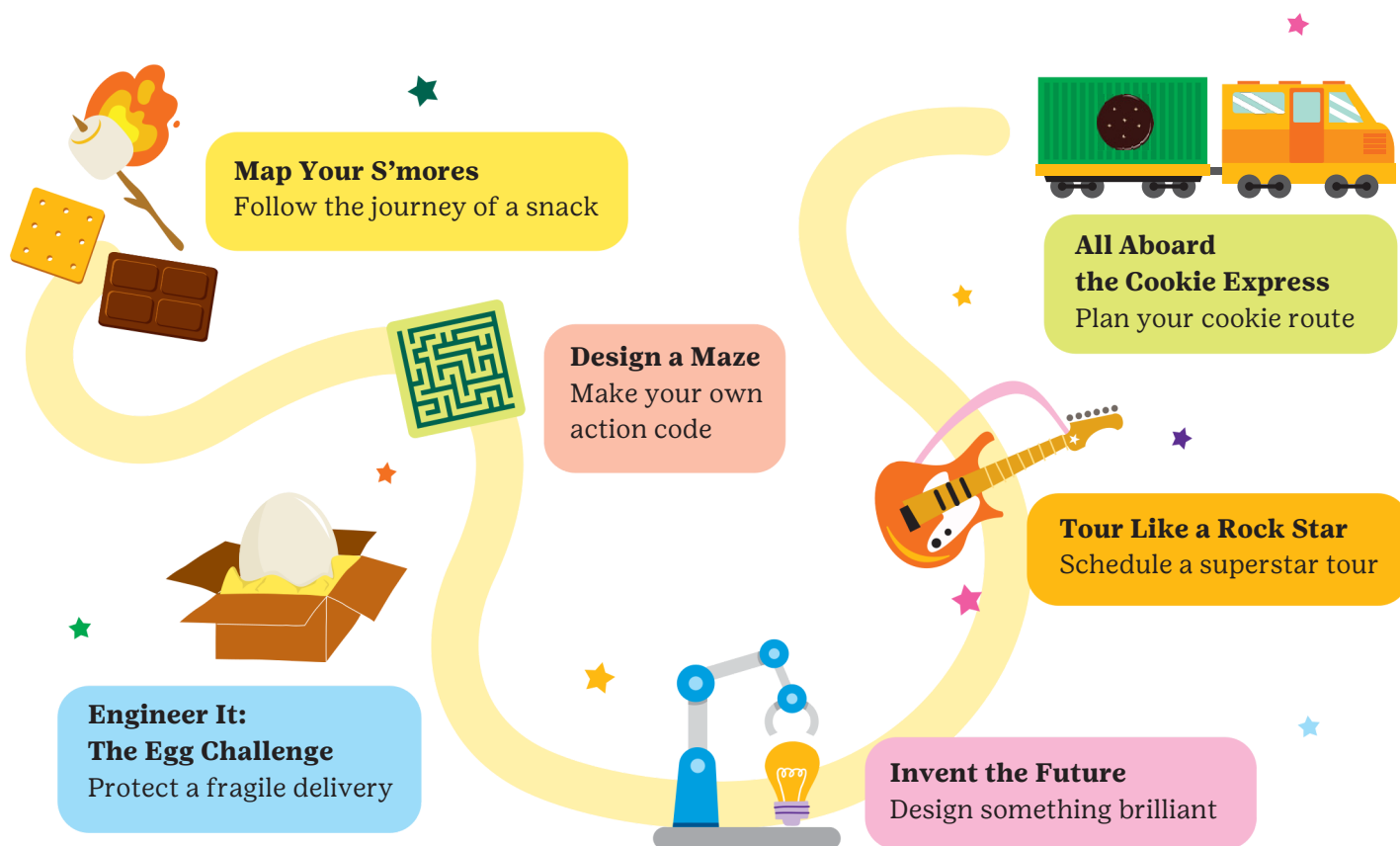
Is your troop doing something UNIQUE, going on an amazing TRAVEL adventure, or having an epic CEREMONY? All these things are the perfect opportunity to give our followers (parents, other Girl Scouts, volunteers, and supporters) an inside look at what Girl Scouting is all about! Troop takeovers are available to an entire troop or individual Girl Scouts age 13 and over. This is meant to be girl-led and an exciting opportunity for our older girls, not their leaders. To request a troop takeover, please fill out our interest form at bit.ly/TroopTakeovers.

You will receive your takeover login information, tips & tricks, and FAQ after your request is reviewed and approved.

Calling All Solutions Superstars!

Do you love cracking tricky puzzles and coming up with clever fixes? That's creative thinking and problem-solving in action. Or maybe you're the one who plans game night, figures out how to carry a carload of gear in one trip, or helps groups to work together seamlessly. That's critical thinking, planning, and teamwork. All of these skills help you to find solutions—and that makes you a Solutions Superstar!

Choose any three of the six activities below to practice solving problems with logistics.



This guide will spark big ideas and boost your problem-solving talents. As you do the activities, think about how you could use these skills in the future. From planning to problem-solving, your powers can help the world run smoothly—especially in careers like logistics. Check out the “Future Focus” tips to see where your superpowers might take you.

Get your superpowers ready—here we go!

Made possible by



Map Your S'more



The graham crackers in your s'mores started as wheat growing in a field. Every product at home had a journey—and lots of people helped make it happen.

How to Map It:

1. Grab a big piece of paper and something to draw with.
2. Draw a map showing how wheat turns into graham crackers.
3. Add a path showing how the crackers traveled to your home.

You just mapped a supply chain—the path a product takes from raw materials to your door!

Future Focus: Careers in the supply chain include Warehouse Managers, Truck Drivers, and Engineers who make the whole process better.

All Aboard the Cookie Express

Delivering Girl Scout Cookies is super fun—but the faster you do it, the more time you'll have for adventures with your troop.

Your Mission:

1. Draw a map of your neighborhood and mark the cookie drop-off spots.
2. Plan the shortest route to deliver to all the cookies— what's the best path? Why?

Every stop changes your route, so think smart!

Future Focus: Loved this? Check out careers like Transportation Manager or Logistics Coordinator.



Tour Like a Rock Star

You're the tour manager for your favorite singer, and they want to play shows in Columbus, Chicago, Memphis, Detroit, and one city of your choice (maybe your hometown).



Your Mission:

1. Figure out the best travel route linking all the cities.
2. Design a cool tour poster with all the concert dates and locations.

Planning a route isn't easy—you've got to think about the big picture!

Future Focus: If you love planning trips, you might enjoy being a Route Planner, Travel Consultant, or Event Planner.

Design a Maze



Codes and symbols help people move quickly and safely through a maze of paths and challenges.

How to Play:

1. Use removable tape in several colors to make a pattern of shapes or colors on the floor.
2. Pick an action for each symbol, like "wave" for blue or "sing" for a star.
3. Move through your maze a few times. Does it get easier each time? If you get stuck, try changing a symbol to make the maze simpler.

Can't do it on the floor? Make a paper version with your own secret code.

You're a-maze-ing! A real-life example of symbols and codes that keep things moving smoothly in the "maze" of life are traffic lights and barcodes.

Future Focus: Robotics Engineers and Computer Programmers create codes like these every day.

Made possible by

Engineer It: The Egg Challenge

Have you ever gotten something fragile in the mail? How was it wrapped? Use what you've observed to protect a raw egg from breaking when tossed.

How to Play:

1. Grab supplies like cotton balls, bubble wrap, paper, tape, and cardboard.
2. Pack your egg carefully—but don't waste materials! Use only as much as you think you absolutely need.
3. Toss the package and see if your egg stays safe.



Solutions Superstars always look for better, more eco-friendly ideas—like the sustainable packaging you just used to protect a fragile item!

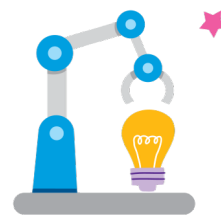
Future focus: Robotics Packaging Designers create safe, stylish packages. Quality Control Inspectors make sure a product looks and works perfectly.

Invent the Future

Technology makes life easier, safer, and more fun—think watches, scooters, and electric toothbrushes. What would you invent?

How to Create:

1. Pick a process or an item at home, school, or in your community that could use a fix.
2. Draw an invention to fix the process or item. You could also build a model using recycled materials, tape, scissors, and string



You've just made a prototype—an early version to test how your invention works and what you'll need to build it for real. Be proud—you're a future inventor!

Future focus: Love creating cool gadgets? Check out careers like Industrial Engineer, Software Developer, Product Designer, or Architect.

You Did It, Solutions Superstar!

You've put your brainpower to the test and showed off some seriously awesome problem-solving powers. The world needs more minds like yours. Now it's time to reflect on everything you accomplished.

Where do you think you can use your superpowers? (Check all that apply.)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| ☐ At school | ☐ In your community | ☐ Inventing something new |
| ☐ On a team | ☐ Solving problems at home | ☐ Helping others |
| ☐ With your Girl Scout troop | ☐ In a future job or career | ☐ With your friends |



Now make it official!

Get your **Solutions Superstar** patch and wear it with pride on your Girl Scout uniform—you've earned it!

Visit girlscoutshop.com, your destination for everything Girl Scouts!



Check out these girls!

In this section, you'll get to hear and see stories from some pretty inspiring local Girl Scouts who are bridging to the next level, earning Highest Awards, going on trips, and more.

Bee a Reader With New Books for Kids and Teachers Bronze Award Girl Scout Jillian!

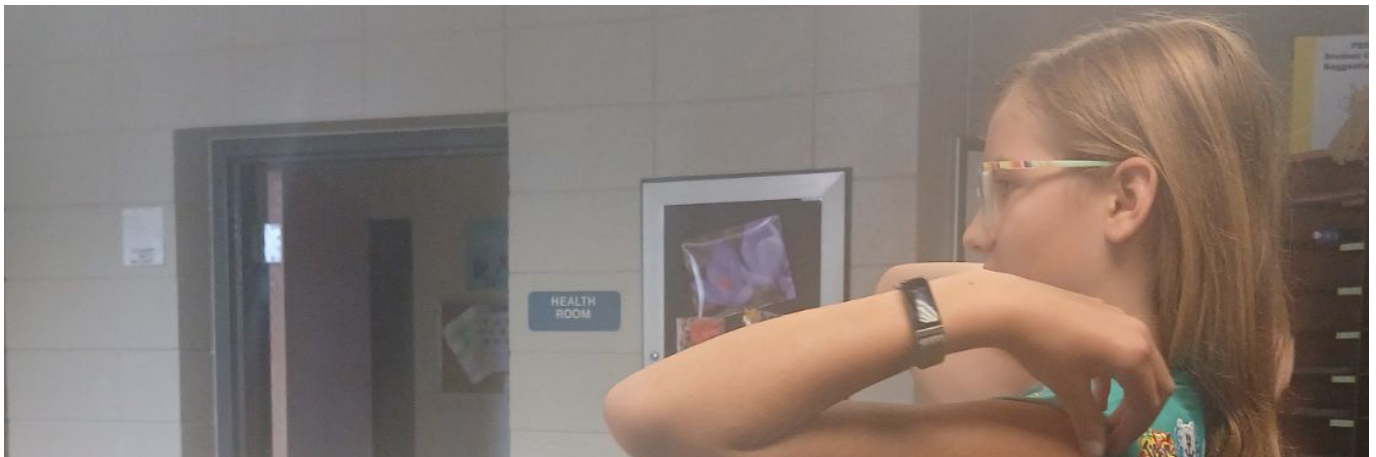
Jillian from Troop 8638 in Sheboygan knew that starting school can be a scary experience for anyone! Whether they are a new Kindergartener or a new teacher, there are many fears that can arise. Jillian saw this problem and wanted to help.



To do so, Jillian collected books and coloring books, sorted them into special sets, and donated them to the Kindergarteners and to new teachers to spruce up their new classrooms. Jillian wanted all students and teachers to feel welcome in their new schools because it can be scary at first, but she knew that everyone deserved to feel loved. She also wanted to spread the joy of reading to as many people in her community as possible. New books always help with growing a love for reading!

When asked about her Bronze Award and what she learned Jillian said,

“I learned that helping people
can always make a difference,
even if you can't see it happening”



Girl Scout Pride

Check out these two Girl Scouts who brought their love for Girl Scouts outside of our Manitou Council!
These two Girl Scouts from Troop 8585 attended a Brewer Game for their Girl Scout appreciation game on 6/14/25.
What a fun time! Great job Girl Scouts!



girl scouts 
of manitou

Go-Getter

Troop 8489 decided to donate some of their cookie money proceeds to buy school supplies for local kids in need. The money they donated was matched by parents, and a total of 190 kids will now have school supplies this year! They are really living the Girl Scout Law!



Raising Awesome Girls

Raising girls to be happy, healthy, and successful is simpler than ever with help from Girl Scouts. We're proud to stand with parents as they raise the next generation of girls and young women. We've got everything you need to raise girls with confidence.

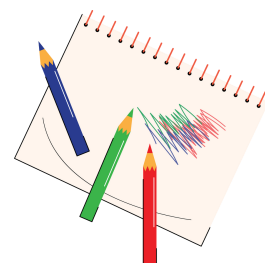
6 Things All Girls Should Know Before They're 16



Whether your daughter is in pre-K or heading to prom this year, it's never too early (or too late) to give her the tools she'll need to live her best life. And among the countless skills and bits of wisdom that will serve her over the years, having these six tricks up her sleeve will give her the confidence to truly take on the world.

Where to Draw Boundaries

You want your daughter to be courteous, respectful, and kind, but there's a difference between that and being a doormat for others to take advantage of. Do her "friends" only want to hang out so they can copy her math homework? Is someone in her life—an adult or another kid—pressuring her to do things that feel uncomfortable? Talk to her now about these types of scenarios even if they haven't come up yet. You want to make sure she has the skills to stand up for herself with confidence. Saying a simple "no," without feeling the need to give excuses or apologies takes confidence—which you can help her with.



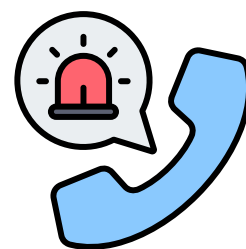
The Art of Managing Money

Understanding how to manage money isn't just a nice-to-know, it's a necessity for this generation. Helping younger girls separate their allowance into amounts they'll save, spend, or donate will set the groundwork for success. Then when your girl gets a little older, giving her a budget and having her plan her own birthday party will take that decision-making to the next level. Financial literacy will not only help your girl understand the value of a dollar but also helps ensure that she'll be on secure financial footing for life.



When (and Who) to Call for Help

As early as possible, all children should know to call 911 in case of an emergency—but what about when your girl is older? Will she feel comfortable calling you or another trusted adult for help in an emergency situation where you might disapprove of her actions or who she's spending time with? It's imperative to make sure your kids know that even if they use poor judgment, the adults in their lives love them and prioritize their safety above all else.



How to Avoid Burnout



We all know at least a couple people who are notorious for over-booking themselves or even sometimes have to bow out of commitments at the last minute out of sheer exhaustion. Don't let your daughter become one of them! Get her a kid-friendly calendar to keep in her room and let her update it with birthday party invites, soccer matches, school project due dates, and anything else going on in her world. Then have her figure out where and when she has time in her calendar for rest and relaxation. Time management and balance are obviously super important in the working world, but as we all know, they go a long way in keeping yourself healthy and happy, too.

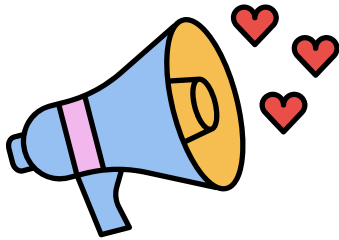
The Ability to Keep Moving

Whether she's on a bike, navigating transit, or in a car, your girl should know how to get out of a fix. Help her learn how to repair her own bike, read a map, and change a flat on the family car when she's old enough. Even if she's not that excited to learn this stuff now, she'll thank you later when she's not stuck waiting around for a tow truck.



How to be Heard

You can have 1,000 great ideas, but if you don't communicate them in a way that will make people listen, they're not going to help you much. Roleplay with your girl so she learns how to introduce herself with confidence when she meets new people face-to-face, help her understand basic strategies of making a compelling argument (she'll need facts to back up her points!), and work on direct communication of facts, ideas, and feelings. Finally, talk her through the admittedly sometimes confusing world of social media, texts, emails, phone calls, and—yes!—even the hand-written letter versus when an in-person chat is best. People skills like these will help her ace that college interview, launch herself into her dream career, and have healthy relationships with friends and partners as she grows up.



Get more Raising Awesome Girls advice at [girlscouts.org](https://www.girlscouts.org)!

A Worldwide Sisterhood

In this section, you'll hear from some pretty incredible Girl Scout alums and discover how Girl Scouts changed their lives. You'll see all that you can be and achieve, and maybe even get ideas and inspiration for your own future.

A Girl Scout Leader Shaped My Life and My Business, As Told to Us by Eva St. Clair



“I’ll teach you how to sew.”

My Girl Scout troop leader, Val (short for Valentine), couldn’t have known it at the time, 1989, but her offer was about to change my life.

I was nine years old and it was my first year as a Brownie. I had just spent all my birthday money (\$50) at Goodwill on a 1948 Singer sewing machine. Other than a few cross-stitch samplers, I had never sewn anything, not even a pillowcase. But I wanted to learn to make my own clothes and when I saw the machine, I bought it without hesitation.

When I told Val a few days later how excited I was about my new purchase, she was just as thrilled as I was. We spent a sunny October afternoon shortly thereafter on my porch in Tucson, Arizona, making a pair of (totally ghastly bright floral Hawaiian print drawstring) shorts. She taught me how to read a pattern, cut the material, thread and set the machine, and sew an even seam. That was my first and only sewing lesson.

In retrospect, those two hours were possibly the most pivotal of my childhood. From then on, sewing became not just a hobby but an obsession. By my freshman year in high school, I had decided I wanted to become a costume designer. My school organized a Renaissance festival that year, and I offered to make costumes for some of the history students. I was featured prominently in the local Tucson daily paper—a clipping I included with my application to Stanford University a few years later.

After graduating from Stanford in 2003 with a major in medieval history, sewing grew into my medium of self-expression. I made gifts—quilts, wall hangings, clothing—with themes that reflected the interests of the receiver: Shakespeare, cycling, medieval history, mathematics. And so one day, when my friend Rebecca asked me, “Have you ever wondered why there aren’t any dresses with dinosaurs on them? Girls love dinosaurs and trains and science experiments,” I immediately said, “Yes! That is a brilliant idea! And it’s something girls deserve. Let’s make dresses with dinosaurs.”

Rebecca and I founded our girls’ clothing line, Princess Awesome, in 2013, with the mission to make girls’ clothes that reflect the full range of their interests. If a girl wants to wear a dress and also loves dinosaurs, she should be able to find a dress with a dinosaur on it. Both girls and boys like many different kinds of things, so it doesn’t make sense to segregate certain themes to one gender or the other.

I sewed our first products for Princess Awesome on that same 1948 Singer sewing machine that I had bought when I was nine. Today, our company is known worldwide for bridging the gap between girls’ interests and what they wear, and we owe much of our success to the early encouragement Girl Scouts gave me.

Being in Girl Scouts taught me that the skills women have traditionally cultivated—like sewing— are valuable and worthwhile to learn. Blending those traditional skills with new ones, Girl Scouts taught me to stand up for girls, listen to my inner creative voice, value femininity, and do good in the world. And fortunately for my troop, Val was the embodiment of those values.

Eva St. Clair

Articulate, polite, well-educated, confident, and elegant: Val was an outstanding role model for young women. Having grown up in a diplomat family, she had lived abroad in a variety of cultures. Val was dedicated to the idea that women's knowledge and skills are valuable, and that we can use those skills to make the world a better place. And even though she had to stop volunteering, and our troop broke up because we couldn't find another leader, the year she gave made a huge difference to us girls, especially to me.

Looking back on the time my Girl Scout leader gave me when she taught me to sew, I recognize now what a sacrifice it must have been for her. She had two young children—a seven-year-old son with severe autism and a two-year-old daughter. Her life was filled with challenges that taxed her energy and sanity. Yet she had the generosity of spirit to lead our Brownie troop that year, and even to give an extra afternoon that changed the course of my life.

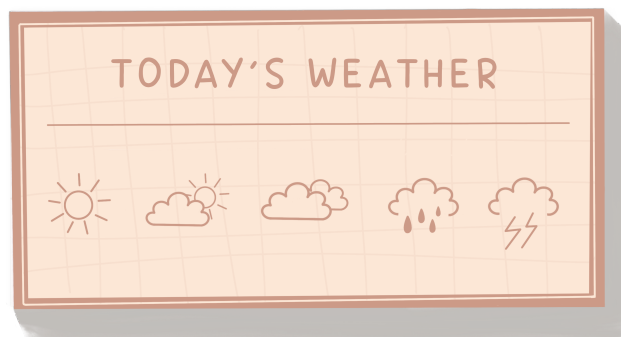
It really doesn't take much to make an enormous impact on a child's life. Just share the skills you have when you can, because you never know how they'll be used in the future. A small gift of time and knowledge can multiply exponentially just like it did for me, all because of the kindness of an amazing Girl Scout volunteer. That's the lesson Val taught me, and one that I am now happy to pay forward to the Girl Scouts in my life. I just can't wait to become a troop leader when my daughter enters Daisies in a few short years.

Girl Scouts speaks to girls about leadership and goal setting in a way that is accessible to them, and those lessons stick. Participating in Girl Scouts is so impactful. Except for Girl Scouts, I had had no exposure to women-run business, not even in college. Girl Scouts gives girls the confidence, skills, and practice to create and run their own businesses, their way. Girl Scouts also taught me that business can be a force for good and for change—a force for creating a better world—and that's exactly what my business partner and I are doing with Princess Awesome.

Thank you, Val, and thank you, Girl Scouts—for everything!

See more powerful Girl Scout alum stories at [girlscouts.org](https://www.girlscouts.org)!

STEM Spot: Weather Observations

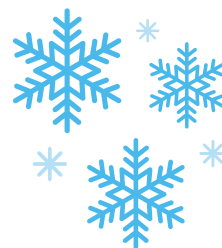
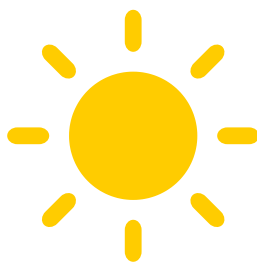


Source: [Kodable](#)

It is no surprise that the fall into winter season brings many changes. Whether it is going back to school, troop time, and even the weather changing! This next activity is one that you can introduce and then come back to over the course of a week or couple of weeks. By charting and graphing the changing weather outside, you can help your girl be more curious about the world around her and discover patterns in the changing seasons!

Materials Needed

- Thermometer
- Chart Paper
- Markers



Instructions

1. Using graph paper or on a section of a bulletin board, create a graph of the days of the month and the temperature.
2. Each day have a student or multiple students take a thermometer reading and update your chart to see the changing temperature day after day.
3. Decorate your chart to reflect what the weather looked like for that day!
4. Reflect on the change in the weather and how that affected your community.

Craft Craze: Fingerprint Fall Tree



Finger paint a tree with yellow, brown and red leaves to create a colorful autumn tree.

Supplies Needed

- Drawing paper or construction paper (9" x 12" or 11" x 14")
- Brown crayon or oil pastel
- Washable tempera paint or finger paint (red, yellow, orange, brown)

Source: [First Palette](#)



Step 1: Make the Tree Trunk

Draw an outline of a tree trunk on a sheet of drawing paper or construction paper. Color the trunk with brown crayon or oil pastel.



Step 3: Finger paint some leaves

Dip your finger onto one color of paint and start finger painting some leaves on your tree's branches.



Step 2: Prepare the Paint

Prepare red, yellow, orange and brown washable finger paint or tempera paint in a palette. Water down the paint to your preferred consistency.



Step 4: Fill the Trees with Leaves

You can use one finger or all of your fingers for painting. Paint with all the colors in your palette until you've filled the tree with autumn leaves.

Tasty Treats: Pumpkin Dirt Cake



Source: [Made to be Momma](#)



Ingredients:

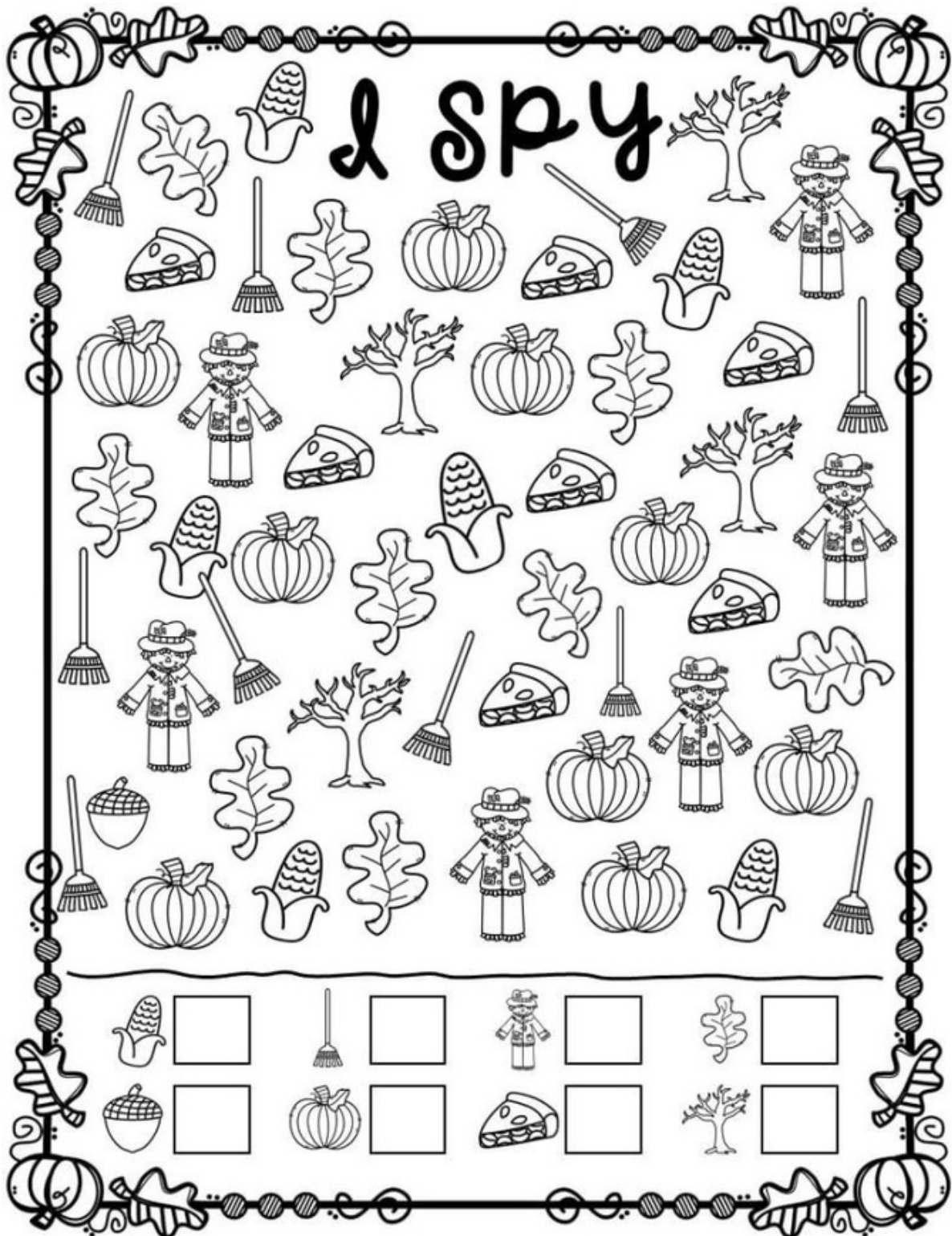
- Chocolate Instant Pudding
- Milk
- Cool Whip
- Oreo Cookies, crushed
- Candy Pumpkins
- Shredded Coconut
- Green food coloring

Instructions:

1. Whisk together pudding mix and milk in a medium bowl for 2 minutes. Follow the package directions for the pudding. Allow to set for 5 minutes.
2. Fold in the cool whip.
3. Add one tablespoon of crushed cookies into the bottom of the cups.
4. Top with a layer of pudding mixture.
5. Repeat layers, alternating with the chocolate pudding until ending with cookie mixture.
6. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour.
7. Add your shredded coconut to a container with a lid, and add a few drops of green food coloring and a touch of water. Shake until colored.
8. Right before serving, add some colored shredded coconut on top. Top with candy pumpkins and enjoy!

Just for Fun: I Spy Activity

Source: [Worksheet Library](#)



Just for Fun: Word Search

Source: [Real Life At Home](#)

Fall Word Find

Name: _____

pumpkin	tree	spider	jacket
leaf	hay	squirrel	gourd
fire	chilly	apple	crow



L	E	F	F	A	Z	L	E	T	R	E	E
F	S	P	I	D	E	R	Q	G	O	P	F
I	Q	I	R	Y	S	P	I	G	Y	O	J
R	U	B	E	F	Q	M	D	H	L	K	A
N	I	H	Y	D	U	A	P	P	L	E	C
I	R	C	K	J	A	W	N	R	I	B	K
K	R	G	G	O	U	R	D	C	H	A	E
P	E	F	J	F	A	L	L	V	C	F	T
M	L	E	T	U	O	G	S	C	H	R	U
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P	H	C	R	O	W	J	A	H	A	Y	A

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