Super Easy Craft/Activity Ideas
From Teresa's Bag of Tricks!

FEELING BAGS GAME
1. Two brown paper bags are created with matching items in each bag (i.e. two quarters, two pompons, two artificial flowers, etc. Whatever you have lying around you can find two of.)
2. The bags are passed around to each girl.
3. The girl inserts one hand in each bag, no peeking, and feels with her hands, attempting to match the items.

YARN PENCILS
You need a pencil and 8 feet of yarn (I like the multicolor for this)
1. Tie the yarn to the pencil where wood and metal touch tightly
2. Holding the pencil UPSIDE DOWN (eraser down), wrap the yarn around the pencil.
3. Then push the yarn up through the loop (near where it started around the pencil).
4. Pull the yarn all the way through the loop (all 8 feet).
5. Pull snug against pencil a little knot is formed
6. Repeat making sure each loop is lower on the pencil
7. repeat 75-100 times
8. Tie off at the end with simple knot
9. First 5-10 knots will be a little messy till you get the hang of it.

WORD SEARCHES
- Find them online and make copies ahead of time.

SPRING BRACELETS
Materials: wooden clothes pins (approx. 10 per girl), pony beads
1. Take apart wooden spring clothes pins.
2. Have the girls add pony beads to the springs (3 per side for the tiny ones and 2 per side for the regular size).
3. Put the two ends into the spring end of a different spring.
4. Continue adding beads and springs until the bracelet will fit around the wrist, leaving the last spring empty.

PERLER BEADS

FISHING SWIVEL BRACELET
Materials: #10 fishing swivels, seed beads, needle nose pliers
1. Open the swivels. Thread beads onto the open edge (you may have to straighten the side out).
2. Thread the ring end of the swivel onto the hook and close (may have to use the pliers).
3. Continue adding swivels until it will fit around the wrist.

COLORING ON FABRIC
1. Draw a picture on your fabric and color, pressing hard to make a good coverage with the crayons.
2. When finished, lay on a towel and cover with freezer paper (shiny side down).
3. Iron lightly, which will melt/set the crayons into the fabric.

5 MINUTE CHOCOLATE MUG CAKE
4 tablespoons flour
4 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons cocoa
1 egg beaten
3 tablespoons milk
3 tablespoons oil
3 tablespoons chocolate chips (optional)
A small splash of vanilla extract
1 large coffee mug (Microwave Safe)
1. Add dry ingredients to mug, and mix well. Add the egg and mix thoroughly.
2. Pour in the milk and oil and mix well...
3. Add the chocolate chips (if using) and vanilla extract, and mix again.
4. Put your mug in the microwave and cook for 3 minutes at 1000 watts.
5. The cake will rise over the top of the mug, but don't be alarmed!
6. Allow to cool a little, and tip out onto a plate if desired.
7. EAT! (this can serve 2)

PINE CONE GARDEN
Materials: seeds, pine cones, old saucers
1. Smooth the bottom of a pine cone so it stands upright.
2. Sprinkle seeds, such as grass seeds, into the layers of the cone.
3. Set cone in a saucer of water.
4. As the cone soaks up the water, it will close, holding the seeds inside.
5. Keep a fresh supply of water in the saucer. Soon the cone will be covered with greenery!

DRINKING STRAW AND BEAD STARS
Materials: 5 pipe cleaners, beads, cut up straws
1. Just lay out 5 pipe cleaners
2. Start stringing beads and bits of cut up straws on them.
3. Once you finish stringing them... twist the ends of the pipe cleaners together (to connect them) at each point of the star.

NOTE: It is easier if you lay the straws on your table in a star shape before you try to connect them. For better stability, I recommend twisting the pipe cleaners together where they overlap on the star.
**GIRL SCOUT BEAD DOLL**

**Materials:** 1½ green pipe cleaner, safety pin, flower shaped bead, head bead, heart shaped bead, 4 beige beads, 4 light blue beads, 4 teal beads, 3 royal blue beads, 3 white beads

1. Fold pipe cleaner in half. Slip the pin into the fold.
2. Slip up the flower shaped bead. The flower bead represents the leader.
3. The head bead is slipped on under the flower bead. It represents Lord Baden-Powell and the wonderful idea he had to create the scouting movement.
4. Wrap the smaller pipe cleaner firmly around the other pipe cleaner, below the head.
5. Insert a heart shaped bead over the two pipe cleaner pieces that hold the head. The heart represents the heart of Girl Scouting, which is the Promise and Law that all Girl Scouts make.
6. Take 4 beige beads and slip two of them on each arm pipe cleaner. These beads represent Brownies.
7. Take 4 light blue beads and slip two of them onto each arm. Twist the ends of the arms into hands. The light blue beads represent Daisies. There are now 10 beads to represent the 10 parts of the Girl Scout Law.
8. Add 4 teal beads, two to each leg. These beads represent Junior Girl Scouts.
9. Add 3 royal blue beads to one leg. These beads represent Cadette Girl Scouts. Twist the end of the leg into a foot.
10. Add 3 white beads to the other leg. These beads represent Senior & Ambassador Girl Scouts. Twist the end of the leg into a foot.

**SPONGE BALL BASKETBALL**

**Materials:** Sponge balls (three small foam sponges, one plastic cable tie per ball), empty boxes or baskets.

1. Cut each sponge into thirds lengthwise.
2. Stack the cut sponges on top of each other in three rows of three.
3. Grab the stack of all nine sponges in the center and twist the stack once.
4. Secure a plastic cable tie around the center of the twisted stack, pulling it as tightly as possible.
5. Trim the cable tie down as close to the center as possible.

**YARN COVERED HANGERS**

**Materials:** Two matching wire hangers, Two balls of yarn (remnants work great) in the same or coordinating colors, Scotch tape

1. Using a small piece of scotch tape secure the hangers together in three places - at each elbow and middle top just below the twisted section.
2. Hold the hangers in place between your knees as you work.
3. Tape the ends of the yarn down at the start of the hanger hook and place one ball on each side of the hanger.
4. Make a knot by wrapping the ball under the wire and slipping it back through the loop (see photo.)
5. Continue making knots alternating sides until all the wire is covered.
6. Finish off with a tassel if desired.

**COMET TOY**

**Materials:** Tennis ball, Plastic shopping bag, Scissors, Clear tape, Glow-in-the-dark plastic lacing, Ribbons

1. Lay a plastic shopping bag flat, then trim off the handles and slit up the sides.
2. Place a tennis ball in the middle of the bottom of the bag.
3. Gather the plastic around the ball; secure the gathered neck with clear tape. Cut the loose part of the bag into 1-inch-wide strips and trim them, if desired.
4. Lay one end of a 7-foot length of glow-in-the-dark plastic lacing along the length of the strips and wrap the lacing around the neck a couple of times.
5. Wrap the remaining lacing around the ball three times in one direction, turn the ball 90 degrees, then wrap it three more times so that the lacing crosses itself.
6. Tie the lacing around the neck to secure it and trim the excess to the length of the strips.
7. Run a strip of clear tape around the ball perpendicular to the wrapped lacing to keep it from sliding.
8. Tie a few thin ribbons and more strands of lacing around the neck of the ball.
IT’S RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSE REINDEER!

Materials: red paper circles, about 2 inches in diameter for older campers, 3 or 4 inches for younger campers; dark markers with fine tip.

- Invite everyone to join you in singing "Rudolph the Red Nose" then ask:
  "How do you think poor Rudolph got his shiny red nose?"
  (Reveal the secret: he’s allergic to snow!)
- Ask: "Have you ever been picked on, teased, or called names because of something that wasn’t your fault? Then you probably know how Rudolph felt." [Did he - or you - feel sad? Angry? Embarrassed? Scared? Vengeful?]
- Ask: "Did you ever wonder how Rudolph felt when the other reindeer suddenly loved him and cheered for him?" [Was he happy? Excited? Proud? Angry because they hadn’t liked him before? Confused, because he hadn’t changed - they had?]
- Ask: "If you hurt someone’s feelings, what can you do to make things better?" [Apologize; do something nice for that person...]
- Say: "Did you know? We ALL have ’red noses’! We all have things that make us special, unique, and individual." Hand out ‘noses’ (circles of red paper) and markers or pens.
- Say: "On one side of your ’red nose’ I want you write down at least one thing - it can be more - that makes you, YOU!" What makes you a special, one-of-a-kind, no one else exactly like you person? Your friends would know it’s you because of... [give girls a chance to write]
- Say: "On the other side of your ’nose,’ I want you to write down at least one skill or talent or ability you have. What are you really good at? What do other people ask you to do because you do it so well? Or maybe it’s a secret talent that no one else knows you have!"
- "Everybody hold up your noses! We’re a unit of Rudolphs - how lucky is that? I like being me, so I’d like to share my ’red nose’: [share]
  Invite anyone else who would like to, to read either or both sides of their ”nose.”
- Say: "Isn’t it great? We all alike enough to get along and have fun together, but different enough to have all kinds of skills and abilities to share. Put your noses with your other camp keepsakes so you can remember how great it is to be uniquely YOU!"
- Say: "Let’s close with a Friendship Circle...In Girl Scouts, we try to do our best to be friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, and to respect ourselves and others. We don’t laugh or call people names because they are different from us. We invite them to join in our games. As I start the Friendship Squeeze, think about ways you can help girls who are different from you be part of your circle of friendship.”

CLAP STICKS

1. To make a set, paint one side and all the edges of the 4 sticks with a base color (we used brown), then let them dry.
2. Next, use other colors to paint on decorative bands and animal motifs, such as the lizard and snake shown here. Use cotton swabs to add dot accents.
3. Once all the paint has dried, glue the sticks together in pairs, pointed side out, so that you have 2 double-sided sticks. Let the glue dry before clapping them together.

CARDBOARD DART BOARD

Materials: ping pong balls • self-adhesive Velcro • cardboard • flannel or felt • glue or tape
1. Place self-adhesive Velcro dots around a ping pong ball.
2. For the dart board take a piece of cardboard about two feet square and cover with a piece of flannel or felt.
3. Tape or glue the material to the cardboard. You can make a round dartboard also. The game is ready to play.

Make more than one ping pong ball and create different zones on the board worth a certain number of points. For example, cut out a red felt circle worth ten points and glue to board, and yellow felt circle for five points, etc. Stand your board up on a chair or lean it against something. If you want, you could hang it by taping a large paper clip on the back and hanging on the wall.

WIND CHIME PLASTIC CANVAS SPINNER

Materials: Half Piece of plastic canvas, pony beads, bells, string, pipe cleaner
1. Cut canvas piece into strips measuring 1/2” x 6½”.
2. Make a small loop at the end of the pipe cleaner and twist closed.
3. Slide on a pony bead and push it up to the loop.
4. Slide on a plastic canvas strip pushing the pipe cleaner through the middle square at one end.
5. Slide on another pony bead and another strip of plastic canvas. Continue until you have 14 strips and 15 pony beads on the pipe cleaner.
6. String the loose end of the first canvas strip on to the pipe cleaner and push it up to the last bead. The plastic will bend into the curved shape.
7. String on a pony bead and then the next canvas strip.
8. Continue until all the strips are used.
9. Finish by twisting the pipe cleaner into a small loop at the bottom.
10. Use pieces of string to hang three bells from the bottom loop.
11. Use another piece of string to hang the spinner outside to catch the wind.

AMAZING FLYING MACHINE

Materials: Five wide craft sticks or tongue depressors.
1. Weave together five sticks as shown, in the order of the numbers on the sticks in the illustration.
2. Begin by holding sticks 1, 2, and 3 in place by pinching together at the bottom tip; add the middle stick; finish with the top stick.
3. Fly the creation like a flying disk.

The craft “explodes” on contact with the ground or other surfaces. Reassemble and have more fun!
**GIRL SCOUT HOPSCOTCH**

*Materials:* Chalk, Markers for each player (stones, coins, buttons)

**Before you play:**

1. Draw a rectangle (approximately 3 ft x 8 ft). Divide the rectangle into nine spaces. Draw a half circle at the top. With more than three or four players, divide the group into even teams and create one hopscotch field per team.
2. Write the words of the Girl Scout Law within each square.
3. Designate a starting line, with distance determined by the players’ ages and abilities.

**How to play:**

1. From behind the starting line, the first player aims her marker for the first square, “Honest and Fair.”
2. If the marker lands in the “Honest and Fair” square, she hops over that square, and all the way through the hopscotch field. If she makes it through the field (turning around at the top), on the return trip she picks up her marker from the first square. On her next turn, she aims for the next square, “Friendly and Helpful.”
3. If a player misses her toss, steps on a line, or lands with two feet, her turn ends. On her next turn, she begins with the square where she left off. (She does not need to start from the beginning.) The winner is the first player to go through the hopscotch field successfully.

**Variation:** Allow younger or physically challenged players to hop with two feet.

Use a buddy system—one girl tosses and another girl hops.

**POP BOTTLE BIRD FEEDERS**

*Materials:* Clean 1-liter soda bottle, Craft knife, 2 wooden spoons, small eye screw, Length of twine for hanging

1. Start by drawing a 1/2-inch asterisk on the side of a clean 1-liter soda bottle, about 4 inches from the bottom. Rotate the bottle 90 degrees and draw another asterisk 2 inches from the bottom. Draw a 1-inch-wide circle opposite each asterisk, as shown.
2. Use a craft knife to slit the asterisk lines and cut out the circles (a parent’s job). Insert a wooden spoon handle first through each hole and then through the opposite asterisk, as shown.
3. Remove the bottle cap and twist a small eye screw into the top of it for hanging.
4. Finally, fill your feeder with birdseed, recap it, and use a length of twine to hang it from a tree.

**COLORFUL CATAPULT**

*Materials:* Block of wood, Paint (optional), Hot glue, Clothespin, Jumbo craft stick, Plastic bottle cap, Paper plates, Markers, Paper

1. To make a launcher, start with a scrap block of wood (your child can paint it a colorful hue if he likes). Hot-glue a clothespin to the block, and a jumbo craft stick to the clothespin, as shown. Then glue a plastic bottle cap near the end of the craft stick, leaving a short lip for a release lever.
2. Create targets of varying point values using paper plates and markers, and crumple small pieces of paper into balls to hurl. Now aim for the highest score.

**ICE CREAM CONE BIRDFEEDER**

*Materials:* pencil, ice cream cone, pipe cleaner, peanut butter, plastic/butter knife or rubber gloves, cheerios, bird seed

1. With a pencil, poke a hole in the pointed end of an ice cream cone.
2. Twist a knot in the end of a pipe cleaner and thread it into the ice cream cone and out the hole (the knot will hold the pipe cleaner in place).
3. Use the table knife (or rubber gloved hands) to spread the peanut butter on the outside of the cone (use soy nut butter or suet if you are concerned about nut allergies).
4. Now, press circle cereal (like Cheerios) into the peanut butter to cover the cone.
5. Sprinkle birdseed over the the entire thing, pressing it into the peanut butter with your fingers.
6. Hang in an area where birds can safely perch nearby.

**MARSHMALLOW SHOOTER**

*Materials:* two plastic cups, balloon, marshmallow/pom pom/cotton ball, scissors

1. Stack two plastic cups together and cut off the bottom of the cups.
2. Tie the balloon closed (no air).
3. Cut off just the very bottom of the balloon.
4. Stretch the balloon over the rim of the cups.
5. Insert the marshmallow/pom pom/pom/cotton ball, pull back on the tied end of the balloon and let go.
TOAD HOTELS

Materials: small (about 4-5 inch) clay pot.
Some folks like to decorate them but for actually using it plain is better. We put them in the flower or tomato garden to attract the toads.

1. Place the clay pot in the fresh turned dirt on its side in the dirt with a little bit of dirt in the pot, as well. You want it to make a small cave that is damp and dark and the opening is away from the light. Then go back and check once in a while in the evenings to see if a toad has taken up living in your hotel.
2. If there is a toad, leave him alone, so he will stay there. If you mess with him, he might move out.
3. Toads are a great way to keep bugs away from your plants!

SNOW ART

Snow is a fine canvas for water-colors. Try your hand at this method of painting.

Materials: A plastic squeeze or spray bottle for each color, Bottles of food coloring, A refrigerator (optional)

1. Fill each squeeze or spray bottle with cold water.
2. Place a few drops of food coloring in the bottles (one color in each bottle). The more drops you add, the darker the color will be.
3. Place the spray bottles in the refrigerator to chill or leave outside for a few minutes. The water has to be cold so that it won’t melt the snow.
4. Spray the colors on the snow to create your snow painting

GLITTERY WINDOW CLINGS

Materials: Paper and pencil, Cookie sheet, Waxed paper, Dimensional fabric paint (we used Scribbles brand in Glittering Crystal)

1. Draw a snowflake template (small, compact designs work best), or download ours here.
2. Lay the template faceup on the cookie sheet and cover it with the waxed paper.
3. Using a thin line of the fabric paint (approximately 1/8-inch wide), trace the snowflake design on the waxed paper as shown, making sure all of the paint lines connect. Let the window cling dry overnight, then carefully peel it from the waxed paper.

EXCHANGE CHANGE GAME

Materials: Pennies, nickels, dimes and one die
To play this game with 2-3 players, start out with 10 dimes, 6 nickels, and 15 pennies. The first player will roll the die and what ever number comes up from 1-6 they will take that many coins. If they roll a six they can take six pennies, but then they have to exchange 5 pennies for a nickel. After a few times of having to exchange them they’ll learn to pick a nickel and one penny. The next player will do the same and take the allotted amount. On the players next turn they take the allotted coins, but if they end up with five pennies they exchange them for a nickel and if they have two nickels they have to exchange them for one dime. When all the dimes are gone the game is over and all players count out their change. The person with the highest number wins. For the next level of learning money combinations add 10 quarters and then the next level you can add dollar bills.

PLASTIC BAG PARACHUTES:

Materials: A plastic grocery bag, scissors, A ruler, A pencil, Yarn, A clothespin pal/small plastic toy (any similar small weight will suffice).

1. From the grocery bag, cut a piece of plastic at least 14 inches square.
2. Cut four pieces of yarn, each 24 inches long.
3. Use the pencil to poke a hole in each corner of the plastic. Knot a piece of yarn in each hole.
4. Hold the four yarn ends together and fasten them in an overhand knot as shown.
5. Tie the yarn around your weight (clothespin pal/small plastic toy/etc.)
6. To prepare your parachute for sky-diving, hold it by the center of the parachute so the strings and weight hand down.
7. Fold over the parachute and loosely wind the strings and pal around it to make a small bundle.
8. Toss up the parachute bundle as high as you can. It should float gently to the ground.

KALEIDOSCOPE

Materials: paper towel tubes, 1 per kaleidoscope; 8” x 11” transparency film (for overhead projectors), cut into strips 1 1/4” wide and 11” long ; ruler; clear tape; scissors; sharpened pencil; small 3 oz. paper cups (unwaxed); colored markers

1. Cut the transparency film into strips 1 1/4 inches wide and 11 inches long.
2. Tape the long edges of the three strips of the transparency film together, forming a triangle. Line up the edges of the strips carefully, and use as little tape as possible.
3. Slide the triangle into the paper towel tube. Look through it – what do you see?
4. Using markers, draw a colorful design on the inside bottom of the cup.
5. Place the cup over one end of the tube and look through the other side. Turn the cup. What do you see – and where do you see it? At the front of the tube? On the sides?
TREASURE BOX

Materials: 68 popsicle sticks per girl, glue, card stock for inside top & bottom (for strength)

The steps have been outlined visually below. The most important thing to remember when constructing your Popsicle Stick Box is not to use too much glue, just a dab will do, and you need to allow your box to dry before moving it.

CONTACT PAPER SAND ART

Materials: white cardstock (about 6x8 with a one inch frame all around the opening), 2 pieces of clear contact paper-large enough to cover the whole frame, colored sand,

1. We cut out picture frames from white cardstock (about 6x8 with a one inch frame all around the opening, but you can choose your size). You can have the girls color their frames, but we just had them write their name on it.
2. With adult assistant, peel the covering off one piece and stick the frame to it so you have a sticky area inside the frame to put the sand on. Rub the frame all over to make sure the contact paper is stuck on really well.
3. Using colored sand, let the girls create pictures on the sticky contact paper.
4. Once they have the contact paper completely covered with sand, have them lift their picture over a box lid or trash bin, and the sand that isn’t stuck to the paper will fall off, revealing an amazing sand picture.
5. Then take the 2nd piece of contact paper and stick it over the sand picture to seal the sand in, punch a hole at the top of the frame and add yarn/string to hang it. No waiting for messy glue to dry - the pictures are instantly ready for hanging!

• NOTES:
I put colored sand into mustard, ketchup and relish dispensers I found at the dollar store a couple years ago, with the long, narrow pour spouts, to keep the sand from pouring out real fast, and give the girls better control of where the sand went, and made sure the girls had a design in mind before they started pouring out sand.
• You could even put a picture under the contact paper for them to follow when making their design since they can see it through the contact paper. The main thing is to make sure they don’t lift their picture up until all areas of the contact paper are covered with a thin layer of sand.

A HANDFUL OF SPROUTS

Materials: disposable gloves, seeds, cotton balls, water, permanent marker

1. Label each finger of the glove with the type of seed being sprouted.
2. Wrap a dampened cotton ball around a seed and place in a finger of the glove.
3. Tape the glove to a sunny window and watch them sprout.
4. Encourage the girls to plant the sprout in a larger container when the sprout is mature. You can cut the bottom of the glove fingertip off to remove the sprout and not disturb the other sprouts.
5. You can use five different kinds of seeds so the girls can observe the differences in growth from one type to another.
FORK FLOWERS
You can make a bouquet of flowers, use them as ribbon to decorate a gift, tie it around the wrist as a bracelet, cut them and glue them on to paper and other crafts, make fork flowers at a birthday party, have them as a classroom art project.

Materials: Fork (metal or plastic will do. Supervise young children so they do not go around running with forks!!), 1 strand of yarn, 10 inches or as long as desired for the stem, Small amount of yarn for the actual flower.

Step 1: Take your stem strand, and lay it in the center of fork, making ends even (in my example, it is plum).

Step 2: Take your flower yarn and lay it in first groove of fork from front to back, leaving about 1 1/2 to 2 inches down the front. The long end that is now laying down the back of the first groove will be your weaving strand. The stem will not be used until the end, just leave it be there. Note: Left-handers may want to begin with weaving strand in last groove instead of first.

Step 3: Take your weaving strand around the side to the front of the first prong of fork. Weave it in and out around each prong in the grooves. Tip: Sometimes, it helps me when starting to hold the short piece with my thumb as in photo below.

Step 4: At end of first row of weaving, repeat Step 2 by bringing yarn back to front but around last prong instead. Weave in and out between the prongs in the grooves.

Step 5: Continue to weave around prongs of fork, bringing yarn back to front again when reaching the end of each row

Step 6: Continue to weave until reaching maybe a couple of millimeters from top.

Step 7: At end, cut weaving strand about 1-2 inches from top of last row

Step 8: Bring strand of stem that is in back to front positioned in center groove of fork. You will then tie these 2 stem strands together on this side of fork.

Step 9: Tie 2 stem strands together tightly. Young children may need you to do this for them. You will see the woven strands begin to scrunch down in center where you are tying. Do not knot this yet.

Step 10: Slowly slide flower off of fork keeping ties taut. (If it is a loose tie, the flower may unravel). As in photo below, it will not look so much like a flower yet, and may appear kind of flat.

Step 11: Once the flower is completely off the fork, pull stem strands tight and you will see the flower begin to take form. Tie once more to knot.

Step 12: With fingers, gently shape "petals" to cover stem portion that has been tied around flower, and to also "puff" the flower out. Trim to short ends of weaving strand.

OTHER IDEAS:
If a young child has difficulty weaving between each prong, try just aiming for the center prong as follows:

If children do not grasp the actual weaving part, do not worry! Just let them go at their pace and speed and make their flower a work of art! It really does not have to be woven through perfectly. They can twist around once or twice on a prong, maybe for a few rows miss the last couple of prongs all together... it will still look like a flower, and it will be made personally by them: