



Popsicle Sticks – The Wonder Object

Leader Resource Sheet

Introduction

Popsicle sticks are easily found, relatively inexpensive, portable, and you can use them to add fast, fun elements to any meeting.

Popsicle Stick Activities

All of these activities can be done with Scout Oath, Scout Law, Outdoor Code, or anything that you are working with the Scouts to learn. Be creative! Here are some things that you can consider: Scout Oath, Scout Law, 6 or 10 Essentials, Outdoor Code, Leave No Trace Elements, Scout Ranks (from Lion to Eagle).

Popsicle stick activities work well in a *Scout Skill Course*. You can learn more about Scout Skill Courses in the [Screen Boosted Scouting](#). Look in Cub Scout Video and Resources, the title is Scout Skills.

Finally, your Scouts may have ideas of what to do with popsicle sticks. If you come up with something new, please share it! I love to hear from you.

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Equipment

- Wide popsicle sticks for most activities. Plain, unfinished wood works best because you can easily see the writing or stamping.
 - 13 for each Scout Law set
 - X for each Scout Oath Set
- Narrow popsicle sticks work best for the flying contraption.
 - 5 for each flying contraption
- Sharpie Markers
- Wide Tape (Blue tape, masking tape, packing tape)
- Optional: Alphabet Word Stamp for making multiple sets of Scout Law sticks
- Rubber bands to group sets, or bag/container for multiple sets.

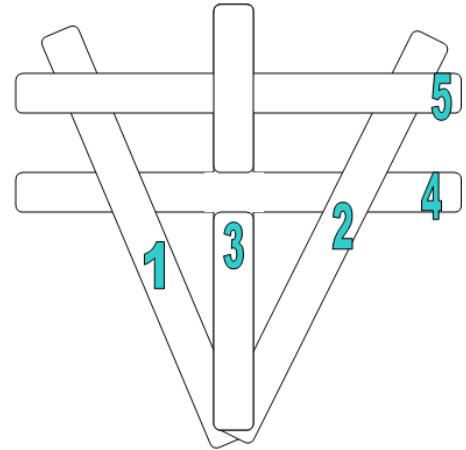
Individual Activities

Individual activities are for one scout using one set of popsicle sticks. These can be done in a meeting, with each Scout having their own stick set. Giving new Scouts popsicle sticks works well as a take-home activity they can do with parent/guardian. On individual activities, challenge them to get faster, or combine stick sets and sort out what goes with what.

1. Scramble – Start with one set of sticks. Lay out face up on a table. Scramble them, and then put them in the right order.

2. Detective – Remove one or more, what is missing?
3. Puzzle – Tape a group of popsicle sticks together. Have the Scout write on the front to make a puzzle. When done, remove the tape and have them reassemble the puzzle. You can have scouts trade and do each other’s puzzles.
4. Flying Contraption - This flying contraption (machine) is constructed on balance and structural engineering principles. Weave five craft sticks together as shown. Fly it like a disk. The flying machine “explodes” when it hits the ground or other surfaces. Assemble it again and have more fun! Narrow sticks work better for this, and the tension is more on the larger sticks, and it inhibits the flying apart.
 - a. NOTE: The order is what holds this together. Look at the diagram carefully and follow the order. This activity works better for Bears and older because it takes hand strength and dexterity to put together.

Amazing Flying Machine



Group Activities

Group activities involve more than one Scout, and often using more than one set of popsicle sticks. Because the sticks will get mixed together. Stamping multiple sets with an alphabet stamp works well, just neatly print several sets using a sharpie, or have each Scout make a set and they will all look a little different.

1. Toss – Pass out enough sticks so each Scout gets one or more. Stand in a circle and have them say the word or phrase in the right order as they toss the stick into a container (like a bucket) in the center of the circle.
2. Charades – Have scouts pick one, then act out what they have and have other Scouts guess.
3. Search – Hide them around and have Scouts find them all.
4. Mass Unscramble – Have a big pile. See how long it takes for them to work together and unscramble all the sets.
5. Relay Race – Build the Law (Oath, or whatever you are working with) as a team race. Have a table at one end (or you could do on the floor), and the Scouts start some distance away. They take one stick from start, then run, jump, crawl, or whatever you decided from the start to the where the popsicle sticks are, put the stick down in the right place, and then return to the start where they tag the next person on their team to go. You can only put one stick down at a time, but they can move sticks to get them in the right order. It is a race!
6. Trade – Separate the Law parts and give one scout just one thing (like cheerful). They trade other scouts to get a full set.

Other Things

Popsicle sticks are helpful for group process management.

1. **Order:** Write numbers on the sticks (1, 2, 3) for as many scouts as you have. Scouts pick to see what order they go. For example, they are deciding on tasks to do at camp. This is a fast and fair way to let them pick, because some jobs might be more popular than others!
2. **Participation:** Write each Scouts name on a stick. Use this to make sure you hear from every Scout on a topic or pick who goes next (a variation of order).
3. **Airtime:** When having a discussion, give each scout the same number of sticks. When they talk, they give up a stick. They can't talk once their sticks are gone. This works well when you have a few Scouts who just like to talk, talk, talk.
4. **Vote:** Have scouts color half a stick green and half red. When asking for input, they hold up the stick to show their opinion.