

Basket Making Station

Materials Needed: (*Provided by Park)

- * Two galvanized wash tubs, from now on “tubs”
 - * #2 Reed small, from now on “weavers”
 - * #4 Reed large, from now on “spokes”
 - * Clippers
- Masking Tape (the class needs to provide this)
Pens (the class needs to provide these)

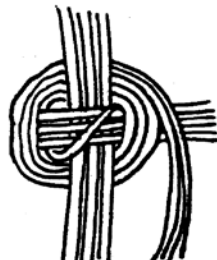


Station Set-up:

1. Tube and reed will be set up next to the courtyard fountain. The reeds will be soaking in water; this will be also set up by the park staff.
2. If it is raining, the tubs will be placed in the alcove near the back gate and the ESP sheds.

Station:

1. Take six of the spokes for each worker
2. Hold these in a “plus” sign pattern with three reeds going horizontally and three vertically.
3. Now, take a long weaver and place it diagonally on top of center of reeds.
4. Loop around the center, and then start counter clockwise going under and over reeds for three complete rotations (similar to the picture below).



5. Now cut one of the spokes off down towards the middle (you must have an uneven number of spokes for this to work).
6. Continue weaving going under and over each spoke. If by accident you skip a spoke, undo the weaver and get back into the pattern.
7. Once the basket has reached desired base proportions, begin to create the sides by holding the basket against the body as you weave. Try to cup the base with one hand while the other hand guides the weavers
8. Continue this pattern until basket is complete
9. When it is necessary to add new reeds, tuck in the last part of the reed. Take a new weaver from the tub, tuck in the start end and continue the pattern.
10. When basket weaving is complete, finish the top by bending remaining spokes over to adjacent hole. This will create a looped top pattern. Or, you can cut the tops of when the basket is dry.
11. If the basket is done, the students can put them in their bags. If they are not done and they have the option to work on them later, tape a piece of masking tape to one of the spokes with their name on it.

***It is very important to keep the basket soaked through the basket making session. If the reeds dry out they will break.**

Station Clean-up:

1. When the basket making is completed, dump out both of the tubs. Please remember to dump the water away from the building. (If possible, on a rainy day, drag them as far as possible from the building.)
2. If there is leftover reed, spread it out on the table next to the gate entrance to the courtyard or on the cooking tables. The reed must be spread out so that it can dry; this is to prevent mildew.
3. The tubs can be left to air dry outside or wiped dry with a towel.
4. When the tubs are completely dry they need to be returned to the ESP supply room.
5. The tubs can be placed one inside the other.
6. The staff person will check to make sure that all items are properly returned to their place.
7. The clippers and station manual should be returned to the ESP supply room.