

Candle Making Station

Materials Needed: (*Provided by Park)

- * Long Candle Sticks
- * Candle Rack
- * Wicking
- * Putty Knife
- * Scissors
- * Wax scrap bucket

Pens (the class needs to supply these)
Masking tape



Station Set-up:

The park staff will start the fire under the candle pot in the morning before your program.

If this is not done, do the following:

1. Remove the lid from the candle pot.
2. Select small logs and kindling from the woodpile.
3. Build a fire under the candle pot.
4. A well-maintained fire takes about two hours to melt the wax. It is very important to keep an eye on the fire and wax at all times, as a boiling wax pot is an EXTREME fire hazard.
5. Once the fire is started, it is time to set up the rest of the station.
6. The candle racks will be set up next to the candle pot.
7. The previous class should have tied two new strings and placed masking tape on to each stick for you.
8. Masking tape (about three inches) on each stick. This is for the kids to write their names on.
9. The wick strings should be about two inches apart on the stick and about 1-2 inches from the end.
10. Once the wax is melted, the fire can die out or be removed to the cooks' grills. The fire is not maintained under the candle pot the whole time because the wax can become too hot and boil or prevent candles from forming. However,

please read the “Things to remember” section below regarding the wax cooling.

Things to remember:

1. Wax is tricky. If the wax is too cool, the candles will be lumpy. If the wax is too hot, the candles will be very thin and not build up.
2. If the wax is too hot it can only cool down by its self.
3. If the wax is too cool, take a shovel full or two of hot coals from the cooks’ fire and place those under the candle pot. You will know when to add coals by watching the top of the wax in the candle pot. A small ring of white cool wax will form around the edges of the pot. This is when you add coals.
4. WAX is FLAMMABLE. If, the wax should catch fire, douse the flames by covering the wax container with the lid. **NEVER, NEVER put water on a wax fire.** You will only spread the fire and risk an explosion.

Please note: The pot contains over 100 pounds of melted paraffin which could cause severe burns so caution must be exercised at all times. Due to this hazard we will shut down the station if we observe any unsafe condition. Underlined items below are absolute! No exception of these will be accepted.

Racks are next to Candle Pot

Station

1. Students should put their names on the masking tape on the stick.
2. The students line up one behind the other at the wax pot.
3. THE STICK AND FINGERS SHOULD NEVER TOUCH THE WAX
4. The first student in line floats or “swishes” the wick across the melted wax three times. This is to build up a layer of wax so that it has weight when the dipping begins.
5. Lift the wick out of the wax and allow the wax to drip off into the pot before moving on. After the drips have stopped, the student walks around the candle pot and gets back in line.
6. The next person in line is NOT to start until the person in front of them has passed the dipping area. Each student should complete steps 4 and 5.
7. Once every student has been around one time the dipping begins.
8. The wicks should be dipped down into the wax one time. The dip should be a quick movement of dropping the wicks into the wax, lifting them out, and allowing the drops to fall off the bottom of the candles into the pot. DO NOT DRIP WAX OUTSIDE OF THE POT AS THIS CAN CAUSE A FIRE. After the candle has stopped dripping, the student walks around both big pots and gets back in line.
9. Each student repeats step 8 until the candle has been made. This can take 60-80 times around the pot.

10. After the candle has been dipped about 30 times, there will be a tear drop shape that forms on the base. There is no wick in this part and it should cut off. There is a wooden bucket, this is where the cuttings should go.
11. After the dipping is done, put the sticks on the candle rack.
12. The candles should be cooled by the time the next group is done dipping their candles.
13. Once the candles are cooled and hard, begin removing them from the sticks. The loops should be easy to slide off. If they are not, then you will have to cut them off.
14. Wrap the pair of candles with masking tape and stick the piece of tape with the students' name on it on the outside.
15. The students can put them in their bag or if there is one box for them all, place them there.

Station Clean-up

1. Make sure all candles have been trimmed off of the sticks.
2. The sticks must be clean of wax. If there is wax on them, use the Putty Knife to remove the wax. This wax can be dumped into the "Wooden Bucket".
3. Please do not dump the wax scraps back into the candle pot.
4. Each stick needs masking tape approx. 3 inches long and two new strings tied on to it for the next class that comes in. If there is not a bundle of extra wicks on the rack, ask a park staff person for more.
5. After the wicks have all been tied on to the sticks, everything goes back to the ESP Supply Room Shed.
6. The sticks go back on the rack and the "Scrap Bucket" sits on top of the sticks.
7. The staff person will check to make sure that all items are properly returned to their place.