

# Stick and Yarn God's Eye: The Camping Craft That Works Anywhere

Crafts | All Year | Ages 6-10

My daughter made her first God's eye at a Girl Scout camp in Leewood, then came home and made seven more in one weekend. It's that kind of project — simple enough that kids catch on fast, but interesting enough they actually want to keep going.

You wrap yarn around two crossed sticks in a repeating pattern. That's it. But the result looks impressive, and kids love watching the diamond shape grow as they work.

## What You Need

- Two sticks, about 8-12 inches long (same length, roughly same thickness)
  - Yarn in 2-4 colors
  - Scissors
  - Optional: hot glue gun to secure the center

We've used popsicle sticks, dowels from Joann Fabrics on 119th, and actual sticks from our backyard. The best sticks are straight and smooth — nothing too bumpy or it catches the yarn.

## How to Make It

Cross two sticks in an X shape. Tie your first color of yarn around the center where they meet, knotting it tight. If your kid struggles with this part, a dot of hot glue helps hold everything in place.

Now start wrapping. Bring the yarn over one stick, around the back, then move to the next stick clockwise. Over, around, move to the next stick. Over, around, next stick. You're building a diamond pattern outward from the center.

Keep tension consistent. Too loose and it looks floppy. Too tight and the sticks bend toward each other.

When you want to switch colors, tie the new yarn onto the old one with a small knot on the back side. Keep wrapping.

Stop wrapping about an inch from the ends of the sticks. Tie off your yarn on the back, trim the excess, and you're done.

**What Actually Works** Thicker yarn is easier for younger kids. We like the chunky acrylic stuff.

Start with just two colors. My son tried five colors his first time and it looked chaotic. Two or three colors create a cleaner pattern.

This works great as a group activity. We did it at a birthday party in Brookside Park — brought a bag of sticks and yarn, spread out on a picnic blanket, and every kid went home with one.

If your kid gets bored halfway through, let them stop. A half-finished God's eye still looks cool, and forcing them to finish defeats the whole low-pressure craft vibe.

## The KC Angle

Powell Gardens sometimes offers stick crafts during their family programs — worth checking their calendar if your kid

really gets into this.

And honestly? The best part is collecting sticks. We've grabbed them from trails at Shawnee Mission Park, our neighborhood walks in Waldo, random park visits. It turns a regular outing into a craft supply run.

