

**Building**  
Session 1

Preparation and Materials needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Materials needed for this session: Rope or yarn, large size craft sticks (50 sticks per scout), wood glue, "The six Boy Scout knots" sheets, hanging birdhouse instructions, peanut butter, bird seed</li> <li>✓ Have the attendance sheet out and ready</li> <li>✓ Review the session to be prepared to lead the discussion. Do not read it to the scouts, be prepared ahead of time to smoothly lead the session.</li> </ul>
Gathering	The six essential Boy Scout knots
Opening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Pick 2 scouts to hold the flag, 1 scout to lead the Oath, and 1 scout to lead the Law.</li> <li>✓ Ensure all of the scouts are focused and ready to begin</li> </ul>
Talk Time	The importance of birds
Activity	<p>Build a Birdhouse/feeder</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Give all of the scouts the instruction sheet and needed material</li> <li>2. Allow the scouts to explore other ways to be creative with building the bird house with the given material.</li> </ol>
Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Point out positive behaviors and activities shown during this session.</li> <li>✓ Tell the scouts what next session will be.</li> <li>✓ Have the scouts clean up the room</li> </ul>
After the meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Enter the advancements per rank. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tiger – Backyard Jungle 4</li> <li>• Wolf – Call of the Wild 2</li> <li>• Bear – Bear Necessities 8</li> <li>• Webelos –</li> <li>• Arrow of Light –</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ Enter attendance</li> <li>✓ Turn in any needed documents into the district/council</li> <li>✓ Call, text, or e-mail 2 parents to share something positive about their scout. Make sure every scout has a positive comment before you return to these scouts.</li> </ul>

**Gathering:**

Give each scout several lengths of rope/yarn and craft sticks. Use the six essential Boy Scout knots sheet to have the boys practice the knots. Make sure the Wolves demonstrate how to tie an overhead knot and a square knot. The Bears should demonstrate a two half hitch knot and ask them what this type of knot is used for.

Visit the knots after making the bird house. Ask the boys to pick a knot they think will be best to hang a birdfeeder up with.

**Talking Time:**

Birds are very important for humans and nature. How are birds important?

*Allow the boys to respond and encourage all positive comments.*

Here are the top 10 reasons birds are important:

For humans

1. Food - Birds are the prime source of food for humans. They produce eggs and also meat. There are many types of birds used for meat purposes like turkey, hen, ducks, geese, quails etc.

2. Economy or Money - Birds are grown to make monetary gains. They are grown by men for business. The meat and eggs from birds are called poultry. These birds are reared in large numbers to meet the demand in markets. They are economically very viable for poultry farmers. Since they are contributing to food, the poultry business seems to be evergreen without losses unless affected by diseases.
3. Agriculture – Birds are not directly employed by man in agriculture, but they naturally serve some benefits. They are:
  - a. Pollination: Birds help in cross pollination. They carry male gametes of one plant and drop them on to female gametes of another plant. Thus they help in sexual reproduction plants. Besides birds, even the insects and wind serve the purpose. But birds play a prominent role. Cross pollination helps in formation of healthy seeds.
  - b. Fertility: Birds excreta is rich in uric acid which can readily convert to ammonia which is a fertile manure to plants. The birds around the farm may contribute less to the manure. But the waste from poultry if added to the soil, it greatly enhances the fertility.
  - c. Pest control: Birds rely on insects and their larva to feed themselves and their babies. So during crop season, there is wide growth of insect population due to favorable conditions. Birds keep the growth under control and help the crop from pest attack.
  - d. Rodent control: Unlike insects, rodents are a big problem to crops. Rodents eat away the yield of the crop. Birds like eagles keep an eye on these rodents and carry away for consumption. Thus they keep the rodent growth under control which in-turn helps the farmers.
4. Communication - This is currently not relied upon. But in past due to lack of technology like mobiles and emails, birds were used for communication. Pet birds like pigeons, parrots were used for communication. They were used to deliver small letters tied round their neck to nearby villages and towns. This was swift, reliable and inexpensive method. Since family had some birds, they could communicate with their relatives by use of birds.
5. Company - Birds are grown as pets by many. They help one avoid loneliness and provide a company. Even we come across many stories where the birds help in tracking the culprits of mischief and some birds even speak etc.
6. Games - These are banned in most parts of the world. Here hens especially male are allowed to fight for fun and gambling. This is a cause of violence to the birds. So many governments banned the bird fights.

For nature:

Birds are part of the nature. They contribute to the ecosystem and environment. They are helpful in following ways to nature.

1. Food chain - Birds are part of food chain. They are carnivores here. They keep check on growth of population of rodents, insects and even snakes. Small birds eat up insects while large ones kill snakes and rodents.
2. Scavengers - We might have come across birds circled around a dead corpse of animals. Even in forest, once an animal is left out by lions and tigers, the rest is consumed by birds. Birds are natural scavengers. They help keep the nature clean of dead and decay matter. Even they do not leave out grains or fruits which are thrown out into open places.
3. Seed propagation - Birds are the key in seed propagation. Hence we see plants growing spontaneously at different places on the soil. The birds eat the fruit or seeds of the plants. Some of them remain undigested and get excreted as such. When these seeds reach the soil, they can germinate in favorable conditions. Thus birds helps in natural seed dispersal and plant propagation.
4. Beauty to nature - Birds are the some of the creatures which add beauty to environment. Hence we see many painting with birds and even photographs of birds to reflect beauty.

Thus birds are greatly helpful to humans and nature. Today we are going to help the birds by making a bird house with bird seeds in it to hang around your home to see what birds you can find in your neighborhood.

# Hanging Birdhouse/Feeder



## Materials Needed:

- 35-50 Large craft sticks
- Wood glue
- 3-4 feet of string or yarn
- Peanut butter or shortening
- Wild Bird seed

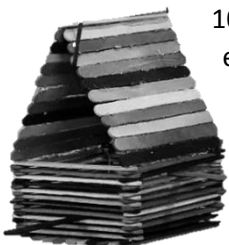
## Instructions:

1. Lay out craft sticks to create panels. These will become the base/floor and the roof panels. Use a full stick as a guide for length.
2. Once all laid out and lined up, add glue to four (4) sticks and place across the base and middle for hold the panel together and support it.
3. Make three (3) panels.
4. Set two (2) of the panels to the side to use later.
5. With the last panel, flip it over and add two (2) sticks along the edge, perpendicular to the base sticks.



6. Add dots of glue to all four corners and add to sticks overlapping previous lay, log cabin style.
7. Cut one stick in half and glue to base to create a step for the birds. Glue sticks over the top to hold into place.
8. Resume adding sticks using the log cabin method until the sides are approximately 2 inches tall, only applying glue to the corners.

9. Get the other two panels and glue them on as a peaked roof.



10. When everything is dry, cut two pieces of string about 1 and a half foot long each. String through the bottom of the bird feeder and up through slats in the sides. Tie all four ends in a knot to hang the birdhouse.
11. Smear peanut butter or shortening on the floor of the bird house to hold the wild bird seed.
12. Hang the birdhouse/feeder someplace outside to watch the birds enjoying the house and seeds!