



## Crafty Kids Program

### Lesson: Holiday Keepsake

This holiday keepsake teaches children about how park abbreviations work as well as recycling. This craft can be done with mostly recycled materials which can teach children about the second life of materials as well.

#### How do park names get abbreviated?

Since park names can be really long, the National Park Service came up with a way to abbreviate the names of the parks so that they could be shortened. With the shortened names they also had to make sure that no two abbreviations were alike.

White Sands National Monument's abbreviated name is WHSA. This comes about by using the first two letters of a park's first name and the first two letters of their second name. For White Sands that would be WH and SA. That gives you our abbreviation of WHSA.

#### What happens if a park only has one name?

If a National Park Service site only has one name you use the first four letters of that name. For example Chamizal National Memorial's abbreviation would be CHAM.

#### Directions:

1. Take the balls and in small sections at a time cover it in glue. (Glue sticks work better with tissue paper and liquid glue works well with fabric.)
2. Place the tissue paper/fabric over the glue and press down gently to make sure it is secure.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 until the ball is covered.
4. Once covered take two pieces of ribbon and stack them on top of each other.
5. Find the center and push the sewing pin through the ribbon.
6. Take the ribbon and sewing pin and find where you would like the bottom of your ball to be.
7. Push the sewing pin that has the ribbon in to the

#### Materials Needed:

- 3 inch styrofoam balls
- Glue (liquid or stick form)
- Tissue paper squares (squares of fabric)
- Ribbon
- Flat top sewing pins

#### Preparation:

1. Prepare the tissue paper/fabric by having it cut in to small squares.
2. Precut the ribbon in to lengths of about 18 inches.

ball where you wanted the bottom to be.

8. Separate the ribbons so they form an X on the bottom of the ball.
9. Pull the ribbons towards the top of the ball. (There is not real easy way to do this.)
10. Once all four strands are on the top of the ball make sure they all cross in an X pattern just like at the bottom.
11. Take a sewing pin and push it through the four strands on top.
12. Finish the top however you like. You can cut the strands shorter or you can leave up long and try to tie them in to bows.