

TIN CAN LANTERNS

Many groups finish their day at the John Muir National Historic Site at night, after hearing a ghost story in John Muir's attic. When students descend down two stories of stairs, they are greeted by parents with lighted tin can lanterns. The lanterns are made at home about a week before the environmental living program. Small candles, enclosed in metal (they come in packs of twelve) are placed inside each lantern. Children carry the lanterns down the path to the back of the property and then to their rides home.

SUPPLIES

Tin Cans

Tin Snips

Hammer

String

Narrow and Wide Nails

1. Fill can with water.
2. Put cans in freezer (approximately 2 days).
3. Draw design on can with crayon or marker.
4. Put frozen can on pillow or towel so it won't roll.
5. Use hammer to punch nail holes of different sizes to make designs in can.
6. Use a thin coat hanger wire for handles and hanging loops.

Note: You may want to do several cans at once. To control melting, refreeze and take another can to work on.

Courtesy of the John Muir National Historic Site, Martinez, California