



## Cardboard Lighted Lantern

Here's what you'll need to make a cardboard lantern at home:

- Cardboard box, cereal box, etc.
- Design for sides of box – create a stencil & tape to box, or draw onto box
- Cutting implement. (This is a step for the grownups!)
- Something to protect your work surface – cutting mat, newspapers, scrap cardboard, etc.
- Strong packing tape or a hot-glue gun (Also for adults!)
- Rope or strong string for a handle.
- Markers or paint for decoration (Tissue paper decoupage also works!)
- Wax or parchment paper, clear film, tissue paper.
- Non-flame light source – battery candle, glow stick, LED light, flashlight, etc. (no open flames allowed.)

**Small kits will be available at the Sept. 13 Party in the Park, in Lincoln Park Rock Island, from 5:30 to 7pm.  
Stop by the Library table in the big Pavilion to make a paper bag lantern!**

## INSTRUCTIONS

### Building a Lantern From a Cereal Box

1. Protect your work area with newspaper, etc.
2. Slit cereal box down one side. You will glue your design to the printed side.
3. Using a sheet of paper, do a line drawing with simple big shapes. Each shape will use a different color of tissue paper. You may also use a coloring sheet, as long as the design is simple.
4. Cut square out of box leaving a margin around the square and the box (1 to 1.5 inches). The size of your square needs to be slightly smaller than the edge of the paper you're using for a design.
5. Cut different colors of tissue paper in  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{1}{4}$  sheets. You may want 2 layers of paper.
6. Place tissue on drawing and trace a shape. Cut the tissue paper at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch around shape you traced.
7. Continue tracing and cutting your shapes until you have all the shapes for your picture in different colors.
8. Cut out your shapes on the paper design.
9. Glue tissue pieces together applying glue just outside the lines. Stick pieces together in the pattern, overlapping pieces. You can trim off excess later. Make sure your design isn't sticking to the newspaper or table, etc.
10. Once entire design is glued together, let it dry.
11. Run a bead of glue along the edge of the picture window. Place design face down to glue it on the printed side of the box, and let dry.
12. Open up the box, and fold so the plain side faces the outside. Retape back into original form. Leave the top open for now.
13. Poke holes through each side of top, insert string, and knot on the inside for a handle. Tape or glue top down.
14. Cut hatch on undecorated side for battery operated light.
15. Decorate outside of box however you like.

Continued next page

## Building a Lantern From a Larger Cardboard Box

1. Open up box. Decide where design will go. You may want to use the inside, unprinted side. Pencil mark the top of the box.
2. Trace or draw design on the outside of your box, leaving a margin around the sides. You may also glue a pre-made silhouette or coloring page on as a guide. Bold lines and simple shapes are the easiest to cut.
3. Cut out the shapes of your design where you want light to shine through.
4. You may use cardstock (heavier paper) to make a frame for your design. (See window example)
5. Carefully separate the cut out from the box.
6. Cover cut-out sections with parchment paper or tissue paper, etc.
7. If you want to add shading or other details to the tissue paper or parchment, do so while the design is flat. You may also tape detail on to the paper.
8. When you are finished, fold the box back together, taping or gluing edges. You may need to notch the box corners to make it fold properly.
9. Cut hatch as needed for placement of battery light.
10. Add handle to top.
11. Decorate or paint outside of box for a more finished look.

