



Friends of NCTC Program Activity
Winter Bucket List
 (ages 5 and above)

Background

It's winter and a new year, but there's no reason to stay inside! Exploring nature during cold weather is fun and completely different from the summer because there are things you will never see in the warmer months. So, go on and get outside!

We have borrowed liberally from www.thechaosandtheclutter.com for many of these program ideas. For more ideas and games, we hope you will visit their site.

What You Will Need for This Project

- A coat and hat!
- Good shoes or boots that can get dirty and wet
- Gloves or mittens
- A bag or bucket or sack for collecting items you find

What to Do

Here's a list of things to do when it's cold outside—but don't let that stop you from going out to explore!

Build a Snowman	Drink Hot Chocolate	Build a Snow Fort
Make a Snow Angel	Go Sledding	Go On a Winter Nature Hike
Invite Your Friends to Go Outside With You	Hide Coins or Other Items in the Snow and Dig For Buried Treasure	Have a Snowball Fight
Shovel a Neighbor's Driveway	Go Ice Skating	Play Tag Outside Using Glow Sticks
Fill a Spray Bottle with Water and Food Coloring Dye and Paint Pictures in the Snow**	Make Snow Cream**	Wander Your Neighborhood to See Holiday Lights (or drive around)
Make a Snow Globe**	Collect Pine Cones to Make Bird Treats	Take Photographs of Winter Surprises
Collect Winter Seedpods	Find Tracks in the Snow	Measure the Snow
Decorate Your House with Items You Collect From Nature	Make a Nature Wreath	Feed the Birds (and watch them!)

When you come back inside, there are still things to do!

Make a Suet Ball**	Decorate a Tree With Bird Treats**	Work on Your Entry For the Junior Duck Stamp Contest (see the December 2022 program)
Make Snowflakes From Play-Doh	Make Paper Snowflakes**	Make a Sensory Snow Bottle**
Bake Cookies on a Cold Day!	Have A Family Movie Night	Work on a Puzzle
Make a Handmade Card and Send It To a Friend (maybe anonymously!)	Make Snow Cream**	Make a Snow Globe**

Have a Family Reading Night in Your PJ's!	Make Suet or Roll a Pine Cone in Peanut Butter and Bird Seed**	Use Cotton Balls to Have an Indoor Snowball Fight!
Watch the Birds at Your Birdfeeder and Draw One!	Drink Something Warm When You Come Back From Your Winter Walk	Draw a Winter Picture (and include Tree Skeletons)

*** Directions For Making These Ideas Can Be Found Below*

Helpful Hints for Adults
(books to read, other websites, links)

Winter Trees by Carole Gerber

The Mitten by Jan Brett

Over and Under the Snow by Kate Messner

Hiders Seekers Finders Keepers: How Animals Adapt in Winter by Jessica Kulekjian

Winter Sleep: A Hibernation Story by Sean Taylor

Hibernation Station by Michelle Meadows

Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening by Robert Frost and Susan Jeffers

>**To Make Paper Snowflakes:** <https://www.marthastewart.com/266694/decorating-with-paper-snowflakes>

>**Ideas For Making Winter Sensory Bottles:** <https://www.teachingexpertise.com/classroom-ideas/winter-sensory-bottles/>

>**To Make Snow Painting Spray Bottles:** Fill your spray bottles with water. Then add **4-5 drops of concentrated food coloring** to each bottle. Shake the bottle to mix the food coloring with the water. You may need more or less depending on the size of the bottle and how much water you use. It should be concentrated which will give you a more vibrant color when spraying. If you find the color is coming out a little dull, just add another drop into your bottle. The color in the bottle should be a dark color. If it looks a little light, then you may want to add more food coloring in.

>**To Make Snow Cream:** Mix 8 cups clean, fresh snow, 1, 14 oz can of sweetened condensed milk, and 1 T. of vanilla extract together in a bowl until well mixed.

>**To Make A Snow Globe:** <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/kids-club/entertainment/general-entertainment/how-to-make-a-snow-globe/>

>**To Make A Suet Ball:** Mix together in a large bowl

1 cup melted beef suet (available from the meat counter upon request or find lard at the grocery store)

1 cup peanut butter (crunchy or plain)

1 cup rolled oats (regular oatmeal)

1 cup cornmeal

1 cup mixed wild bird seed

Form the mixture in a ball and put in netting (found at fabric stores). You can also save a bag that oranges/onions come in and use that. Hang it outside where birds can get to it.

>**To Decorate a Tree With Bird Treats:** <https://www.birdconservancy.org/decorate-a-tree-for-the-birds-this-holiday-season/>