

Project Linus

Providing Security Through Blankets

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www.projectlinuschicago.com

Project Linus-Kids Helping Kids Guidelines for Presentations with a Project Linus Speaker 4/18

Thank you for introducing our PROJECT LINUS-KIDS HELPING KIDS program to your scout troop, classroom or youth group. By giving the gift of a comforting blanket to children in crisis, your group will experience the satisfaction of helping others.

Presentation

- ** A Project Linus representative will deliver a 15-20 minute presentation which will include the following:
 - a short history of Project Linus
 - a discussion of how a "security blanket" makes you feel
 - age-appropriate stories of recipients of blankets
 - We will bring pictures of children with their Project Linus blankets and a sample blanket
 - Brochures will be provided for each child
- **The presentation should be scheduled after room set-up and snacks for a scout troop.
- **You may purchase Linus patches for \$1.50 which should be ordered when you schedule your meeting. Payment may be made by cash or check payable to "Project Linus."

Two ways your group can create a Project Linus Blanket

Quilt Squares

* Through our fabric exchange program, we will provide the prepared 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch squares. Your group will purchase the same amount of bleached muslin, **wash and iron it**, and trade it for the cut squares. We will cut the fabric into squares and use them for the next group. One yard of fabric of 36" wide **bleached** muslin yields 16 squares. Divide the number of squares you need by 16 and the result is the number of yards you should purchase. There are two types of muslin-bleached and unbleached. The bleached muslin is white and very soft. The unbleached muslin is beige and not as soft. We request **bleached muslin**.

**Permanent fabric markers are provided by your group. They can be purchased at any craft store. Do not use Sharpies. We have had good results with Marvey Markers. You might ask your school art teacher or another scout troop leader if they have markers you could use.

****The decorated squares MUST be heat set before returning to Project Linus which can be done by ironing the squares or putting them in a hot dryer for 30 minutes.**

*Since our blankets are given to children of all religions, we do not accept any blankets or decorated squares with religious symbols or messages.

* **DO NOT** use glitter, puffy paint or attach anything like buttons or sequins.

*Designs should be centered on the square.

*Supply paper for the children to practice their designs **and** to put under the fabric squares to prevent damaging the table with the markers.

*Finishing the quilt may be done by someone in your group or by Project Linus volunteers. A simple envelope pattern works well with the squares although any pattern is acceptable.

Fleece Blankets

*Detailed instructions for creating fleece blankets are available on our website www.projectlinuschicago.com. The instructions can also be mailed/emailed to you.

Some important things to consider when making a fleece blanket:

*Purchase 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards of fleece for each blanket. Project Linus does not provide the fleece.

*The hospitals and shelters request that only **ONE LAYER** of fleece be used for the blankets. Double-layered fleece blankets are too warm for the children and too bulky for storage.

* The pattern of the fleece should correspond to the size of the blanket. If the fleece pattern is appropriate for a baby or toddler, a smaller blanket should be created. If the pattern is suitable for an older child, please make a larger blanket.

*The selvage or rolled edge must be removed and the fabric should be squared.

*Fringe can be cut on two ends of the fleece or on all four edges. The fringe can then be tied or left as is.

* **BLANKET MUST LAY FLAT** before donating to Project Linus. If the fringe is tied too tightly, it becomes bowl-like requiring the blanket to be re-made by Project Linus volunteers.

* The Project Linus national website includes directions for making fleece blankets called "Bunny Ears." Our chapter of Project Linus does not accept these blankets.

BLANKET REQUIREMENTS

Blankets donated to Project Linus must be new, washable and handmade!!

We do not accept blankets MADE OR STORED in homes where someone smokes. The residue of the smoke can be hazardous to children whose lungs are compromised by illness.

If there is a pet in the house where the blanket is made, it must be washed, dried thoroughly and placed in a plastic bag before donating it to Project Linus. Before donating the blanket, please check for pet hair that might be embedded in the fleece.

Blanket Sizes

QUILTS, KNITTED & CROCHETED BLANKETS—Blankets can be square or rectangle with each side measuring 36" or longer.

Return the decorated squares or fleece blankets to Judi Goldman, 637 Charlemagne Drive, Northbrook 60062. Please include your name and address.

Thank you so much for participating in this special project. It is a wonderful way for children to reach out to comfort critically ill or traumatized children. We look forward to helping you introduce Project Linus to your group.

Judi Goldman & Penny Gidd

Chapter Coordinators

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