

PROJECT LINUS **MEETING GUIDELINES**

Thank you for introducing PROJECT LINUS to your scout troop or classroom, your colleagues or community group. By giving the gift of a comforting blanket to children in crisis, your group will experience the satisfaction of helping others.

Presentation

We have developed all of the materials you will need to present Project Linus to your group. The materials include a brief history of Project Linus, stories of blanket recipients and instructions of how to make a fleece blanket or decorate a quilt square. We will supply a master copy of our Kids Helping Kids or Community Helping Kids brochure. Please copy the brochure and give one to each participant.

You may purchase Linus patches for \$1.50 each which should be ordered when you schedule your meeting. Payment may be made by cash or check payable to "Project Linus."

PROJECT LINUS BLANKET OPTIONS

Fleece Blankets

Many school groups, scout troops, corporate and community groups have created fleece blankets for our chapter of Project Linus. These cozy blankets are much loved by the children who receive them. We will provide detailed instructions for creating fleece blankets. The instructions are also available on our website www.projectlinuschicago.com. We can also email them to you.

To get you started, here are some suggestions:

****Purchase 1 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 each blanket. Double-layered fleece blankets are too warm for the children and too bulky for storage.**

**** Buy fleece "off the bolt." Please do not purchase No-Sew Fleece kits. The fleece included in the kits is often too thin to be a warm and cuddly Project Linus blanket.**

****Your event will go more smoothly if each piece of fleece is prepared in advance. This involves completing Steps 1 & 2 on the fleece instruction sheet. Your participants can then begin cutting and tying the fringe right away. Preparing the fleece is done by your group**

**** BEFORE YOU START MAKING THE BLANKET, CUT OFF THE SELVAGE! THIS IS THE FIRST THING TO DO!** The selvage can be found on the long edges of the fleece as it is rolled off of the bolt. The selvage is not found on the width of the fabric. To identify the selvage, look for the following things:

- ❖ a different color or texture
- ❖ a rolled edge
- ❖ pin holes
- ❖ words printed on it

If the selvage is not removed, our blanketeers will have the task of snipping the selvage off each piece of fringe or re-making the whole blanket. It is much easier to remove the selvage before the fringe is cut. The piece of fleece should also be squared. **REMEMBER-CUT OFF THE SELVAGE!**

****Tie a knot in the middle of each piece of fringe. Do not tie two pieces of fringe together. Do not tie the fringe too tightly.**

****DO NOT** cut a slit on the top of each piece of fringe and thread the fringe through it. These are sometimes called "Bunny Ears."

****We cannot accept any blanket created or stored in a smoking environment.**

****If there is a pet in the home, please wash and dry the blanket. Check for pet hairs. Use a lint roller to remove any pet hair. Place in a plastic bag.**

**Do not use fleece that has symbols of a disease/syndrome, e.g. pink ribbons for breast cancer and puzzle pieces for autism.

** **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.

**Fleece blanket instructions can be found on our website under the "Blankets" tab. www.projectlinuschicago.com

Quilt Squares

QUILT SQUARE INSTRUCTIONS

Squares of bleached (white) muslin are decorated with **permanent fabric**

markers and made into a comforting quilt. Your group will enjoy using their imaginations to decorate the squares with pictures or messages which will provide comfort to children in crisis. 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. A sample blanket can be borrowed from Judi to your participants what a blanket made from their squares will look like.

FABRIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Through our fabric exchange program, we will provide the prepared 8 1/2 inch squares for your project in exchange for the same amount of new muslin. Your group will purchase bleached muslin, wash, dry and iron it to exchange for the prepared squares. The formula we use for determining how much muslin you should purchase is: one yard of 36" wide fabric yields 15 squares. Divide the number of squares you need by 15. The result is the number of yards you should purchase. For example, if you need 30 squares, you would purchase 2 yards of muslin. **DO NOT CUT THE FABRIC YOU PURCHASE!** Our volunteers will cut this fabric into squares for the next groups.

NOTES:

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 or online. Do not use Sharpies.

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 decorated squares with religious symbols or messages.

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

Yarn or Fabric Collection

Ask your participants to consider donating blanket-making materials to our chapter of Project Linus. These materials include new skeins of washable yarn (no wool), quilting cotton in pieces larger than 1/2 yard and 1-1/2 yards of fleece. These donations will enable our blanketeers to create more blankets to comfort children.

BLANKET REQUIREMENTS

- * Blankets donated to Project Linus must be new, washable and handmade!!
- * Blankets may be square or rectangle with each side measuring at least 36 inches.
- * **We do not accept blankets MADE OR STORED in a smoking environment**
The residue of the smoke can be hazardous to children whose lungs are compromised by illness.
- * If there is a pet in the location 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.
- * Do not eat nuts or peanut butter when creating a Project Linus blanket.
- * 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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www.projectlinuschicago.com