

Lantern Making for SADD's 30th Birthday Celebration

The supplies listed below are suggested for one individual making a lantern. If you are making your lanterns in a large group, be sure to have multiple sets of supplies on hand.

What you'll need:

- A 2-liter soda bottle
- A utility knife
- A pair of scissors
- Assorted colors of tissue paper
- Some type of glue, such as Elmer's Glue
- Water
- A small paint brush
- A one-hole punch
- Wire
- Tree branches or dowels (optional)
- Newspaper
- Glow sticks

How to do make a lantern:

Cover your work area with newspaper or a tablecloth and lay out your supplies.

Wash, rinse, and dry the soda bottle to make sure it is clean. (For large groups you may want to wash, rinse, and dry all bottles ahead of time.)

Take a 2-liter soda bottle and pierce a slot in the cone shaped top of the bottle with a utility knife. Make sure the slot is large enough for you to insert the blade from a pair of scissors. **(Please note: an adult should assist younger children with this step.)** For large groups, we suggest that a few adults cut the tops off of all bottles in advance to save time.

Insert scissors into the slot and cut off the top of the soda bottle and discard the top.

Take the bottom half of the soda bottle and punch two holes directly across from each other. (This is where you will later string a piece of wire across to act as a handle.)

Select the pieces of tissue paper you'd like to use. Cut or tear tissue paper into desired shapes. (Some participants may want to sketch an idea or a pattern to use when making their lantern; others may work without a sketch.)

Fill a small glass or jar with 2-3 ounces of water and add an equal amount of Elmer's glue. Stir the mixture until the glue dissolves into the water. At SADD, we like to call it the "magic mixture."

Dip a small-sized paintbrush into the magic mixture, hold a piece of your tissue paper against the outside of your soda bottle lantern and paint the magic mixture onto your tissue paper sticking it to the soda bottle lantern. The tissue paper should be completely covered in the magic mixture so it will stick to the soda bottle lantern.

Continue to place pieces of tissue paper onto the soda bottle lantern and cover them with magic mixture. You can overlap pieces of tissue paper to create a design and explore different techniques by layering colors of tissue paper to create different colors. Collage with your tissue paper until your lantern is completely covered with colors or your desired design.

Once you've covered your soda bottle lantern completely, continue to apply small amounts of magic mixture over any pieces of tissue paper that appear to be dry or not sticking to the soda bottle.

Once your soda bottle lantern is complete, you should set it out to dry overnight.

When you are sure your soda bottle lantern is dry, cut a 12" length of wire (any type of wire that you can bend with your hands is fine). Thread the wire through the two holes you punched across from each other. Twist the wire around itself to secure it on each side leaving a little bit of slack in the middle. This will become your lantern handle.

You can hook the wire handle of your lantern onto the end of a small branch or a wooden dowel or you can simply carry it by its wire handle.

When it comes time to light your lantern, break and drop a glow stick into your decorated lantern.