



Handmade Items

Do you have a gift for making handmade goods? Maybe you should consider doing a handmade items stall. A handmade items stall is an excellent way to raise funds for your summer team. You can sell an abundance of different things including bookmarks, bags and scrunchies. The best part is, there are multiple ways to sell your items; you could set up a social media page or sell them at church and youth. This is the perfect way to get creative and raise the money you need to go on a team.

How to Start

What to make?

To begin, brainstorm the different things you would like to make. Consider things like the time you have available, your budget for materials and equipment and your skills.

Here is a list of the different ideas of what you can make:

Sewing - Scrunchies, bags, cooking apron, skirts, pencil cases, baby bibs and blankets etc.

Bookmarks - Made from cards with watercolour or paint designs on them, with a tassel on the end.

Cards - For different occasions such as thank you, happy birthday, thinking of you etc.

Pen/pencil tins - Reusing and repurposing old food tins (spaghetti, beetroot etc, tins - ensure they are cleaned properly)

Coasters - Square blocks of wood with a fancy design, cork coasters, etc.

Tie dying - Shirts, socks, or even bed sheets!

Miscellaneous - Candle making, soap making, bath bombs, keyrings and jewellery trinkets

Knitting and crocheting - Blankets, scarfs and beanies.

Jewellery making - Necklaces and earrings.

For more information on how to make these handmade items refer to the document, '*Handmade Items Step by Step Guide.*'

Cost

Factor in things like the cost you are willing to spend on your handmade items. Consider the budget you have and how much you are able to spend for the equipment and resources needed to make your handmade items.

When shopping for your resources, try and find the bargain bin, where you can score some things. For instance at Spotlight, you can get fabric ranging from \$10-\$15 per square metre. Sometimes at Spotlight if you get a roll of your fabric that has just over a metre, some staff will give it to you or charge you a small fee for the excess, as it is too much of a hassle for them to fix the excess of the materials.

Consider when buying resources, to buy packets that have multiple in the pack, so you are getting your money's worth. The reject shop or discount stores are great places to shop for materials. At these kinds of shops there tend to be a wide variety of items you can use.

Time Available

When deciding on what handmade items you are going to make you need to factor in how much time you have available that you can spend on making your handmade items.

You don't want to overload yourself with the extra work, so before starting to make things, map out and plan how much time you are able to spend on making your items. Ask yourself the following questions to help you plan out your time:

- How much time will it take for you to make the handmade item(s) you've chosen?
- How much free time do you have outside of school and work?
- Will this be able to fit outside of your school and work hours?

Making your Items

After deciding on what you will be making, your budget, time available, materials and equipment you need for your handmade items, begin to create your items. When making your items you should work at doing similar tasks at the same time: think of it like a production line.

For example: Scrunchies: If you choose to sew scrunchies, measure and cut the materials (fabric and elastic) at the same time. Then you can iron all the fabric at the same time, and sew everything at the same time. Rather than sewing the scrunchies individually - which will be time consuming.

Advertising your Items

Social Media: Once you've made a range of your handmade items consider making a Facebook or Instagram page where you can advertise your handmade items. Ask your family and friends to share your work on social media - this will help for your handmade items to get around the Facebook/Instagram community and you will get more sales!

Markets: If you have free time on the weekend, consider going to a local market and having a stall to sell your handmade items. You will need to book a stall in advance and will need to pay a small fee for your stall. Some markets may want you to pay an insurance fee, to cover the cost if any of your items are broken by the members of the public. Some markets also have the option for you to rent a table or gazebo. So clarify whether you need anything prior to the day of the market. Plan in advanced how many things you have to sell, labels of how much they cost, how

you are going to transport your items to the markets, whether you need help from a family member or friend, how long it will take for you to set up your stall, and how long it will take to pack everything away at the end.

At a Fundraiser: If you are having a larger fundraiser such as a High Tea, Trivia Night or similar, you can sell your handmade items on the side - just like you could with a Bake Sale. By selling things on the side of a bigger fundraiser, guests who attend can be supporting you in different ways. They can see the time and energy you have poured into making things to sell for you to raise money for your fundraiser.

Church: Another possibility is to sell your things after church. This is a great opportunity for your church to be involved and support you, as you raise funds for your trip in a unique way - by using the different skills and gifts you have. Be sure to seek permission from your pastor on whether you can have a table set up at the back of the church hall and sell your things after church and whether there is a day suitable for you to do this, as your church may have a different event on that particular day.

Prerequisites

If you choose something like sewing, you may need to look at different Youtube videos, or ask someone who has had some experience in sewing who can help you learn how to sew, especially if you don't have much experience. Likewise with crocheting and knitting, you may need to practise before you begin making your handmade items. This will help you to use your time and resources effectively and efficiently.

Practice Makes Perfect

If you are learning new skills, such as sewing, knitting, crocheting etc, practice doing something small first before going big. If you begin using the material or a brand new yarn without practice beforehand, chances are those resources will go to waste. Do a test of the project you want to make, and reflect on where you need to make improvements and how you can make your items to a high standard.

A Word of Encouragement!

Don't be discouraged that sales may be slow to start with - it will take some time before your sales begin to ramp up. In the bigger picture, making handmade items will help you to learn and grow in time management, and will help you build on different skills. So don't give up!

