Pine-Needle Person

Loretta Oxendine learned to make pine-needle baskets from her sister. Here’s a “needle-y” craft you can make!

**Supplies:** about 20 pine-needle “bunches” (be careful not to separate needles from the sheath that holds them together), unbroken and clean; string or yarn; scissors

1. Gather 10 pine-needle bunches and bind them all together about 1 inch from the sheath (where the needles join) with some string; this action will make the neck of your pine-needle person’s body.

2. To make arms, gather and even 10 needle bundles. Holding them together tightly, trim the pointy ends evenly, leaving 4” of pine needles behind.

3. Rearrange the arm needles you just made so that five are facing one direction and five are facing the other direction. Even them out and tie them together, with string, on each end.

4. Pick up the bundle that will be your pine-needle person’s body and gently separate the needles into two even sections. Carefully push the arm bundle up toward the person’s neck and rest it against the neck binding. With a new piece of string, bind the body needles back together below the arm bundle.

5. Trim the pointy ends of the body needles so their lengths are even; this will make a skirt for your person.

6. Want legs? Separate the body bundle into halves and bind the skirt needles into two even groups near where your person’s feet would be.