



**Craft**  
**Ages 6–8**  
**15–30 minutes**

## Pool Noodle Boats

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### Description

Make your own pool noodle boat and set your sails!

### Space Considerations

Any type of space where kids can be seated to do a craft

### Competencies

- Artistic expression
- Creative expression
- Development of fine motor skills
- Eye-hand coordination

### Materials

- 1 serrated knife (adult use only)
- Scissors
- Single hole punch (optional, but recommended)
- Markers
- Rulers (optional)
- Pool noodle(s)
- Foam sheets
- Paper straws
- Small stickers (optional)
- Water-filled bin, sink or bathtub (optional)

### Preparation

1. An adult pre-cuts the pool noodle(s) width-wise into pieces that are 2 cm thick.
2. Optional: If you don't want to use rulers during the activity, pre-measure the flags and paper straws and mark where the kids need to cut them (4 x 5 cm and 3 x 5 cm rectangles for flags and 12 cm straws).

## Implementation

1. Distribute the following tools to each group:
  - Markers
  - Scissors
  
2. Distribute the following material to each participant:
  - Two foam sheets (preferably different colours)
  - One paper straw
  - Stickers (optional)

**\*Note:** We recommend holding off on distributing the pool noodle bases until the flags have been completed.

### Flag

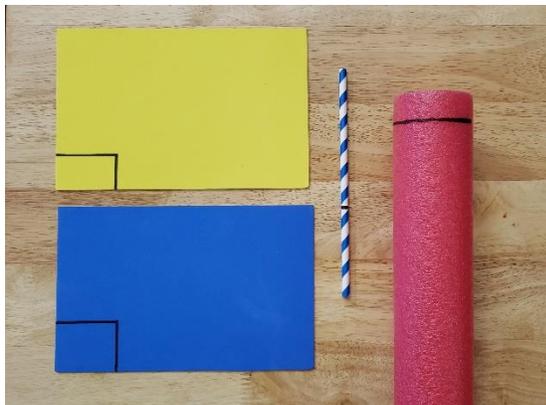


Diagram 1: Measured materials



Diagram 2: Cut and decorated materials

3. Cut a 4 x 5 cm rectangle from one foam sheet.
4. Cut a 3 x 5 cm rectangle from a foam sheet of a different colour.
5. Hold the larger flag vertically (shorter side up). Leave a bit of space at the top and bottom and use scissors or a single hole punch to make a hole near the top and near the bottom.
6. Repeat step 5 for the smaller flag.
7. Decorate flags using markers and stickers (optional).

### Mast



Diagram 3: Attaching flags to paper straw

8. Use scissors to cut the paper straw to 12 cm in length (slightly more than half the straw).
9. Slowly push the straw through the holes of the larger flag.
10. Add the smaller flag to the straw, above the larger one.

## Boat



Diagram 4: Pushing mast into the top of the boat



Diagram 5: Pool noodle boats floating on water

11. Hold pool noodle boat with one hand, placing your pointer finger underneath the area where you will push the straw into the boat.
12. Use your other hand to slowly push and twist the straw into the pool noodle. **Do not push the straw all the way through.**
13. Grab a bin, fill it with some water and watch your boats sail. Alternatively, you can float them in the sink or bathtub.

## Accessibility Considerations

- Pre-measure the flags and mark the paper straw so kids only need to cut them
- Prepare some pre-cut materials for some participants to make your program more accessible
  - Cut the two types of flags from the foam sheets
  - Cut slits with scissors or punch holes at the top and bottom of each flag
  - Cut paper straws for masts

## Book Suggestions

*Recycle and Remake* by DK

*Boxitects* by Kim Smith

*Soaked!* by Abi Cushman