

Lightweight Knapsack

A lightweight knapsack or backpack can hold essential items, but still be light enough to carry on long hikes. Making your own would be a great craft to complete in preparation for a hike or camping trip.

Materials:

- 18"x36" piece of fabric (cotton, polyester, flannel, etc.)
- 2 pieces of cord, 63" each (nylon, clothesline, etc.)
- 5/8" grosgrain ribbon (approx. 5" length)
- Scissors
- Pins, straight and safety (optional*)
- Sewing machine or needle and thread

Directions:

1. Fold fabric in half, inside out, so you have a square.
2. Cut the ribbon into 2.5" pieces, and fold in half.
3. Then insert the ribbon, about 1" up from the bag fold, with the loose ends touching the edge of the bag.
4. With the fold at the bottom, pin the front & back pieces AND the ribbon together, along the right and left sides to prepare to sew.
5. Sew each side, leaving the top 2.25"-2.5" unsewn.
6. Hem each side of the open side so you don't have a raw edge.
7. Fold the top down, and into the bag, leaving about .5" above the side seam.
8. Sew the flap onto the bag, so you have a .5" sleeve.
9. Turn the bag right-side-out.
10. Feed cord 1 through the top pockets, starting on the left side, feeding through the front, then the back, in a half loop (*attach a safety pin to the cord end to make it easier to feed through the pockets).
11. Repeat with cord 2, BUT start from the right side.
12. Feed one end of cord 1 through the ribbon loop on the left side, then tie the ends together in a knot.
13. Repeat for cord 2, but on the right side.
14. Pull cords tight to close the bag!

