

# Candlemaking

**No gel candles can be exhibited in Candlemaking. Since gel candles do not require the same heating and molding techniques as wax or paraffin candles, they do not meet the requirements for this project.**

1. See General Requirements for Crafts.
2. All candles in Level B and above should have a sturdy base.
3. In this project you will learn to make good quality candles that can be useful and decorative. You will use different types of wicks, colors, and scents. You will have better results if you use candle wax instead of paraffin. In all divisions the following goals should be kept in mind:
  - a. Uniformity of color
  - b. Absence of air bubbles
  - c. Smoothness of surface
  - d. Finish of seams
  - e. Finish of bottom where wick is inserted
  - f. Balance and creativity
4. Candles for decoration only should be labeled as such.
5. See Candle Making handout for more details and tips.

## **LEVEL A** (grades 3 & 4) – Patio Candles

1. Learn to melt wax and get good color, shape, and quality in the candle, plus set the wick properly.
2. Experiment with different types of containers to make permanent patio candles. A patio candle is a candle that has been poured in a permanent container with a wick in the center, and that has not been decorated in any way. Types of containers are limited only by the imagination – glass jars, metal cans, etc.
3. Exhibit one patio candle in its container. Candles should be one solid color.

## **LEVEL B** (grades 5 & 6) - Undecorated Molded Candles

1. The aim is to learn the basics of making candle molds. Candles are not to be decorated or painted, just plain.
2. You will need to make poured candles using plain or simple molds in a solid color. Use rigid plastic, glass, or metal molds. Wax containers will leave an undesirable film on the finished candle. Examples of molds could be bottles, cans, jars, etc.

## Ice Candle or Layered Candle

1. Ice candles – made using wax and ice.

2. Layered candles – a minimum of three pourings. Layers must be visible.

Exhibit one undecorated candle removed from the mold **OR** one ice candle removed from the mold, **OR** one layered candle removed from the mold. Candle needs to be displayed on a sturdy base.

### **LEVEL C** (grades 7, 8, 9)

#### Whipped Candles

1. Learn to whip and use whipped wax in candles.
2. Experiment and make several candles using whipped wax.
3. Examples of candles with whipped wax are: snowball candles, picture candles, sodas, sundaes, and frosted Christmas trees.

#### Decorated Molded Candles

1. The aim is to increase experience in making candles and improve the quality of workmanship of the base and decoration done with simple molds. Use a combination of skills obtained in previous divisions.
2. Candles can be decorated with paint, whipped wax, wax flowers, glitter, sand, sequins, rub & buff, etc.

Exhibit one decorated candle made with whipped wax **OR** a molded candle that has been decorated. Candle needs to be displayed on a sturdy base.

### **LEVEL D** (grades 10, 11, 12)

1. Learn to combine candles with other materials and use more advanced molds with skills learned in earlier years.
2. Make centerpieces and displays that may be seasonal or for all occasions.
3. Candles may be combined with greenery, flowers, pottery, glass, etc.

Exhibit a candle that has had decoration added and is suitable for a table arrangement, centerpiece, or room decoration. Candle needs to be displayed on a sturdy base.

“The Encyclopedia of Candle Making Techniques” is available as a reference book for any 4-H member to check out. The book may be checked out for 2 weeks at a time.

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