

MINI 4-H CAKE DECORATING

Kindergarten



Hi! Welcome to Mini 4-H and the Mini 4-H Cake Decorating Project. You are going to have a great time this year as you learn to decorate cupcakes.

Before you begin this project, please read the helpful information listed on the next two pages.

INSTRUCTIONS

Before you start working on this project, please read these instructions with an adult or 4-H member who will be helping you.

1. Read the Exhibit Requirements, Note to Parents, Helpful Hints, and Project Goals.
2. You should begin working on your project when you get this manual.
3. Be proud of your project if you have done the best you can do.

EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS

Read this project book.

Exhibit 3 cupcakes that you have iced and decorated with toppings such as: nuts, raisins, chocolate chips, M&M's, coconut, or other suitable candies etc. (Do not use pre-made frosting decorations). A clear plastic container will be provided for you to put your cup cakes in. Please stop by the Extension Office to obtain your clear container.

NOTE TO PARENTS

4-H is proud to be considered a "family affair." While it is expected that the 4-H member will actively complete his or her own project, please offer encouragement and guidance to your child throughout the project. Keep in mind that your child's exhibit is to be an exhibit of his or her best effort. Most importantly, take time to enjoy 4-H with your child.

HELPFUL HINTS

Each 4-H family should view a current copy of the Washington County 4-H Handbook . This book contains information on 4-H activities, rules and projects. Whenever you have 4-H related questions, please consult this information book.

Monthly 4-H Newsletters will be made available to families. Please read these Newsletters. They will contain information on upcoming 4-H activities, rule or project updates, and 4-H fair information.

Mini 4-H members are encouraged to attend 4-H Club meetings. At these meetings, you will learn more about 4-H, make new friends, and have fun.

PROJECT GOALS

Given the information in this manual and the help of an adult or older 4-H member you will complete an exhibit in the Mini Cake Decorating Project.

Welcome to the Mini 4-H Cake Decorating Project. To begin this project you need an idea. Think about what you like to do and maybe you could decorate your cupcakes like that. For example, do you like to play baseball? Why not make some baseball cupcakes. Or maybe you like ladybugs? You could create your own ladybug out of a cupcake. These are just a few ideas to get you started. Make a list of the things you like or like to do, and then think about how you could decorate your cupcakes or cake like your ideas. Show your ideas to an adult and then consider the following things before you decide which one to use.



- 1) Does the idea sound fun to you?
- 2) Would it teach you something new?
- 3) Would the idea be easy enough for you to complete?
- 4) Will you need to purchase additional supplies or equipment before you start the project?

Once you have considered all of these questions, then it is time to choose the best idea. After you choose your idea, you will need to make a list of supplies and equipment you would need to complete your project. After you have made the list, check to see which supplies and equipment you already have at home, and which you would need to purchase.

Then the next time you go to the store, you can pick up the other items you need. Some basic supplies that you would need include a metal spatula, ingredients for cupcakes, cupcake pan and liners, icing and edible toppings for decoration.

The next step is to get together an area of the kitchen where you can work on your project and not be disturbed. Remember to choose a spot where younger or older brothers and sisters can't accidentally mess up your project. If you have any pets in the house, be sure to keep your supplies out of their reach also.

Now that you have the perfect spot. You're ready to start your project. Start your project when you will have plenty of time to work on it and won't be interrupted. Set out all your supplies and equipment. Make sure you have an adult around to help you out.

You will first need to make cupcakes. You can use your favorite recipe or use a box mix. Be sure you have an adult to help you read and follow the directions. Put your cupcakes in paper or foil liners, filling each no more than two-thirds full with batter. If you overfill your cup-



cakes, they will be real rounded on top instead of flat, and will be harder to decorate. Bake as directed and then cool completely. Always be careful when using the over.

Icing Cupcakes

Now that you have your cupcakes made, make sure they are completely cool before you start icing them. You may use your favorite homemade icing or ready-to-spread frosting. You may use white or any other color of frosting depending on how you want to decorate your cupcakes. The best tools for spreading frosting are small metal spatulas or blunt butter knives. To make the icing smooth and pretty, dip your spatula in hot water and gently slide it across the top of your iced cupcake.

Decorating Cupcakes

You are now ready to decorate your cupcakes using the ideas and designs you have come up with. You may decorate with any edible toppings, such as: nuts, raisins, chocolate chips, coconut, M&M's and other suitable candies. Use your imagination! Do not use pre-made frosting decorations. You may use the same design on all cup-

Your Cake Decorating Exhibit

Exhibit 3 cupcakes that you have iced and decorated with toppings such as: nuts, raisins, chocolate chips, M&M's, coconut, or other suitable candies. (Do not use pre-made frosting decorations). Place in a clear plastic box obtained from the Extension Office.

Check List for Your Cake Decorating Exhibit

The judge will consider these things when they look at your exhibit. Can you answer "yes" to each question? Yes No

1. Do you have 3 cupcakes? _____
2. Are they decorated with edible toppings? _____
3. Are they neat and creative? _____
4. Are they properly displayed in the clear container from the Extension Office? _____

It is important that you get your exhibit to the fair on time. Check your 4-H Newsletter or ask your 4-H Club leader when your Mini Cake Decorating Project exhibit needs to be checked-in at the 4-H Fair. Write that information here and on your family calendar.



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