

Children and their families learn to construct simple versions of traditional Native American objects at the Mitchell Museum's Kids Craft Morning workshops.

Submitted photo



Mitchell Museum to offer holiday craft workshops

The Mitchell Museum of the American Indian in Evanston will offer its Kids Craft Morning weekend workshops with a new twist in December. Children can make holiday- and winter-themed projects suitable as decorations and gifts — a first for the program.

The seasonal projects will include making God's eyes of festive, holiday-colored yarns, ornamented with pompoms. Children can make beaded key chains in a variety of designs including a winter snowflake. They can choose beads of Christmas red and green, or winter white and blue, or any combination.

To usher in winter's arrival, participants can build small-scale models of Arctic inuksuit, sculptural stone monuments and landmarks erected by Inuit people of the Far North. Children will use craft stones, to be glued together and mounted on a wood base.

All three of the special projects will be available at each workshop.

December workshop dates and times:

- 11 a.m. to noon, Dec. 3
- 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Dec. 4
- 11 a.m. to noon, Dec. 10
- 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Dec. 11
- 11 a.m. to noon, Dec. 17
- 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., Dec. 18

The museum offers coloring projects and other simple craft activities on request at

the workshops. Offered year-round, the museum's Kids Craft workshops are designed to introduce children to Native cultures of the U.S. and Canada, which are the focus of the museum's collections and exhibits.

Mitchell staffers and volunteers lead the informal, one-hour sessions where children learn to construct simple versions of traditional Native American objects using everyday craft materials.

Workshop participants have the opportunity to view authentic examples of Native crafts from the Mitchell's collection and illustrations of Native designs as models for their projects.

Kids Craft Morning activities are recommended for children age 5 and older, but there is no minimum age requirement. Participants must be accompanied by an adult. No pre-registration is necessary.

Admission to Kids Craft Morning workshops is included with museum admission, which is \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors, students, teachers (with valid school ID), and children. Admission is free for Mitchell members and tribal members.

The independent, nonprofit Mitchell Museum is located at 3001 Central St., Evanston. For more information, call 847-475-1030 or go to mitchellmuseum.org.

—This article was written by Nathan J. Silverman of Nathan J. Silverman Co. Public Relations, an Evanston-based PR firm.