

Wooden Pull-Toy Wagon: (a 2015 convention workshop)

This workshop involves some preparation by the leader/club if you wish to make the wagon steerable at the front, and also wish to minimize the length of time needed to complete the wagon. If the wagon is to be painted, all wooden pieces need to be lightly sanded and sprayed with a sealer ahead of time.

Steerable: a hole needs to be drilled at the center front of the wagon bed, so that the tack used can slide easily in and out. A hole needs to be drilled at the end of the tongue to insert the pull string. It is also helpful to have a tiny pilot hole drilled in the center top of the tongue/axle assembly.

Minimize time: the tongue and front axle assembly and the back axle assembly need to be clamped and glued together. We also glued and clamped the four sides of the bed. The rear axle assembly could also be glued in place.

Supplies: Conestoga wagon kit from AC Moore, wood glue, clamps, tacks & small hammer, craft sticks, newspaper, various acrylic paints, parachute cord or other pull string, hair dryer, plastic cups for water, paint brushes, pitchers for clean and dirty water, sandpaper and spray sealer for the wood. (Could be stained with more than one session.)



Participants will complete and paint a partially constructed 10" wooden wagon (bed is actually 6"). Choice of paint colors available. Materials will be provided to allow conversion to a covered wagon at a later date, if desired.

Skills: gluing with wood glue, hammering a small tack, painting, and tying on a pull string

Juniors begin by nailing the wagon bed to the front tongue axle assembly. Next the sides are glued and clamped to the wagon. While that glue sets, juniors can paint the wheels. The wagon undercarriage and axle assemblies can be painted if the junior wishes. Be sure to recommend that they spread the paint evenly as they work so there are no big globs of paint that will hinder drying. Next the wheel axle can have one wheel installed, put the axle through the assembly block and then attach the second wheel. Lastly, remove the clamps on the wagon bed sides so the wagon bed can be painted.

Time was essential for us, so I used a hair dryer to speed up the drying time on the wagons while the juniors were cleaning up their paint, brushes and water. Just before our time was up we gave each wagon a quick spray with the sealer to help keep the paint from rubbing off too quickly. Last item to complete was the installation of the pull string (long enough for a doll to "hold.")

We gave the participants the wire, cloth, wooden seat, and directions to turn the wagon into a Conestoga wagon if they wish to at a later date (was already in the kits).