

May is the perfect time for **kite flying** due to sunny days, nice breezes, and high winds.

This month Scouting on Demand is focused on helping you build and fly a kite.

Kite building has evolved from a simple 2 stick diamond model to others such as elaborate box kites and many other designs.

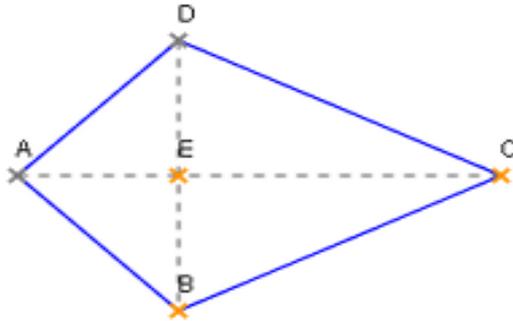
For this activity you will be given directions for a simple 2 stick diamond kite made from newspaper, however, feel free to build your own more elaborate creation with your family.

Diamond Kite Materials needed:

- Two full sheets of newspaper (I always select the funny paper because it is more colorful)
- 2- ¼ inch round wooden dowels
 - Dowel A is 24 inches in length (mark this dowel A)
 - Dowel B is 20 inches in length (mark this dowel B)
- Scissors
- Pencil or markers
- String (lots of string)
- Masking tape or packing tape
- Ruler or yardstick
- Yarn and/or ribbons
- A little handsaw (parents may need to pre-cut the dowels or invite the kite builders to help measure the dowels and parents cut them). More hands make light work, right? 😊

Directions:

1. Cut the dowels A & B to the correct length as noted above, 24 inches for dowel A and 20 inches for dowel B.
2. With the handsaw carefully make notches on both ends of the dowel (this helps hold the string used to tie the kite together). Location spots are A, B, C and D in diagram below.



3. Mark dowel A six inches from the top. Next cross dowel B over dowel A to form a "t". Location spot E in diagram above. Use string or tape to wrap the dowels together and secure them. Pay attention to the notches on the dowels as they will need to be parallel with the floors so you can later wrap the string around them.
4. Wrap the string all the way around the kite making sure it goes into the notches. Start at A, string to B, string to C, string to D and end at A.
5. Once the string is added to the frame, it is time to add the newspaper. (There are many other materials to use other than newspaper. Plastic garbage bags work as well).
6. Place the kite frame on flat surface on top of the newspaper. Trace around the kite frame adding 1 inch outside the frame (This extra is used to attach the newspaper to the kite).
7. Fold the newspaper edges over the string and tape them down securely.
8. Cut a piece of string 24 inches long and poke a hole on the kite at points A and C from the diagram above. You will attach the string to the kite at those points and secure it with tape. This area is called the bridle of the kite. Next cut a piece of string 22 inches long and secure to B and D from above. Tape works fine for this too.
9. If you would like to add a tail to your kite add 36 inches of string and secure to point C on your kite. Space ribbon every 5 inches. Tie a knot with the ribbon around the tail string. Glue also works well.
10. Lastly, attach your flying string. Depending on how high in the air you want your kite to fly will determine how much string you will need for this.

Make sure you bring scissors, tape, and extra string in case of needed repairs to your kite.

Now you are ready to fly your kite! Teamwork is needed to get your kite off the ground. A windy day might help.

Ready, Set, Go have FUN!

Other kite sites are below:

www.buggyandbuddy.com

<https://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-and-experiments/take-flight-with-a-diy-kite>

<https://www.my-best-kite.com>

<https://scoutlife.org/projects>

<https://www.pinterest.com/kite>

<https://www.instructables.com>

<https://chaoticallyyours.com/how-to-make-a-kite/>

<https://www.kidspot.com.au/things-to-do/search?=activities>

Youtube has several instructions on making a kite.

Flying a kite for beginner's video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3YWfa8LB50>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Yy3eHqJjBU>

If you would like to get inspired, follow these links to some amazing kite festival videos.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ezFPH9Pna0E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCOZTn74n1I>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ycPadmB0qlw>