

PINECONE BIRD FEEDERS

This is a fun and easy craft project that anyone can do. Living in the land of the pines means we have easy access to pinecones of all shape and sizes!

Materials

- pinecones (Try to find large broad cones as they will hold more food and are easier for birds to cling.)
- 8-10 inch piece of string or twine per pinecone, can use yarn or ribbon to add a burst of color
- peanut butter, suet, lard, vegetable shortening, or other nut butters may be used, avoid sugar free varieties
- birdseed, pieces of nuts, or small bits of fruit
- butter knife
- a shallow dish (to hold the bird seed)

**SPECIAL NOTES- Never use decorative or scented cones as those contain chemicals that can be harmful to birds
And be sure to avoid fishing line or other thin threads that can create tangle hazards for birds**

Instructions

1. Lightly shake the pinecone to remove dirt or debris. If scales are tightly packed, remove a few to make more room for food.
2. Tie the string or twine around the pinecone (place it two to three rows down the wider end of the cone) Let the other end of string hang loose for now
3. Use the butter knife to spread the cone with a layer of peanut butter or other ingredients indicated above, as thick or thin as you would like. Be sure to press some peanut butter between rows of scales to fill in large gaps.
4. Once the cone is fully coated, roll it around in the dish of birdseed. Press lightly to make sure the seed sticks to the cone. If you don't have bird seed, use fruit or nuts or skip this step all together. Birds will still enjoy the peanut butter
5. Pick a spot in your yard to hang the feeder. Cool shaded areas are best to keep the peanut butter from melting or turning rancid. You should pick branches or bushes that birds can find easily.

