

## Cricut Design: Custom Tote Bag Activity

**Objective:** Participants will customize their tote bags with iron-on vinyl designs

**Duration:** 45-60 minutes

### Materials Checklist:

- **Tote Bags:** Plain canvas or fabric tote bags for each participant.
- **Iron-On Vinyl:** Assorted colors and patterns.
- **Weeding Tools:** For removing excess vinyl.
- **Heat Press or Iron:** For adhering the vinyl to the fabric.
- **Parchment Paper or Teflon Sheet:** To protect the tote bag and vinyl during heat application.
- **Markers/Pens:** For any additional personalization.

### Preparatory Steps:

#### Pre-Activity Setup:

- Pre-cut and weed some of the vinyl designs
- Set up Cricut machines with appropriate cutting mats and materials.

#### Design Preparation:

- Prepare a library of symbols and shapes for additional decoration.
- Ensure all weeding tools, transfer tape, and heat press or irons are readily available.

#### Participant Setup:

- Arrange tables and seating for participants to customize their tote bags.
- Distribute tote bags, pre-cut vinyl designs, and weeding tools.

### Instruction and Safety Briefing:

#### Provide Clear Instructions:

- Conduct a safety briefing on handling weeding tools, transfer tape, and the heat press or iron.

### Activity Breakdown:

#### 1. Introduction

- **Welcome Participants:** Greet the participants warmly and introduce the day's activity.
- **Explain Activity:** Explain that they will be personalizing tote bags with amusement park-themed designs using iron-on vinyl.

- **Discuss Importance:** Discuss how personalizing items can build anticipation and make the field trip more enjoyable.
- 2. **Personalization Activity**
  - **Distribute Materials:** Hand out the tote bags, pre-cut vinyl designs, weeding tools and markers/pens to each participant.
  - **Demonstration:**
    - Show participants how to prep the tote bag surface to ensure proper adhesion.
    - Demonstrate how to use the transfer tape to pick up the vinyl design:
      - Position the design on the tote bag and cover with parchment paper or Teflon sheet.
      - Use a heat press or iron to adhere the design, applying even pressure and heat.
      - Slowly peel away the transfer tape, leaving the vinyl design on the tote bag.
  - **Participants Customize Tote Bags:** Allow participants to apply their designs to their tote bags and add any additional decorations with markers or pens. Walk around to provide assistance and tips as needed.
- 3. **Wrap-Up**
  - **Showcase Tote Bags:** Invite participants to share their customized tote bags with the group. Highlight a few unique designs and praise the creativity shown by the participants.
  - **Discuss Creativity:** Discuss how engaging in creative activities enhances learning and develops important skills.
  - **Feedback and Questions:** Collect feedback on the activity and answer any questions participants may have. Briefly preview the next activity or session to keep participants engaged.

## Ed Guide:

**Safety Script:** "Before we begin our exciting personalization activity, let's review some important safety guidelines. Always handle the weeding tools, transfer tape, and heat press or iron with care. If you have any questions or encounter any issues, please let me know immediately. Remember, safety is our priority to ensure everyone has a fun and safe time. Thank you!"

**The Importance of Personalization:** "Personalization allows us to express our individuality and creativity. By adding your designs to your tote bag, you make it uniquely yours. This activity helps you appreciate the value of making items your own and shows how personal touches can transform everyday objects into something special."

**Enhancing Creativity through Hands-On Activities:** "Engaging in creative activities like this enhances our learning and develops important skills. By personalizing your tote bag, you're not just decorating an object – you're practicing problem-solving, fine motor skills, and design thinking. These skills are valuable in many areas of life and learning, including our upcoming field trip."