Basketry has been around since the beginning of civilization. It is a useful skill that has been passed down from generation to generation. It is the task of using materials to weave and create a container or mat. Baskets can be used for many tasks and for decoration. As you study the key elements of weaving and basket making, decide what kind of project you want to make. Get ready to work with your hands, learn a new skill, and make a project to keep.

To earn the Basketry emblem, you must complete ALL of the tasks.

**TASK 1: MATERIALS**

There are a variety of materials available to use in making baskets. Typical materials to use are **REEDS, PAPER, RAFFIA, RAGS, and SEA GRASS**. The material needs to be pliable or bendable so that you can use it to weave. When creating a basket, you want to plan ahead so that the materials and style you choose match your reason for having the basket. If you are going to use the basket outdoors, you will want to use a durable, weather-safe material, but if it is going to sit on a table and hold fruit, then a sturdy material should be chosen. Your troop leader will go over the materials with your troop. Then, label each basket below with the typical material (listed above) used to weave it.
Task 2: Types/Uses

There are many types of baskets that are created around the world. For our emblem, we will look at four basket basics:

**Coiled Baskets:** These use grass and rushes.

**Plaiting Baskets:** These are made with materials that are wider.

**Twining Baskets:** These are created using stiff material such as roots and bark.

**Wicker Baskets:** These baskets use materials such as reed or cane.

Baskets are used indoors and outdoors — in the field, school, restaurants, animal pens, and on your kitchen counter. You can probably find a type of basket in almost every room of your home. Discuss with your troop different ways baskets are used.

**Make a list of six ways to use a basket:**

1.  
2.  
3.  
4.  
5.  
6.  
There are many styles of weaving. For this task, you will learn two weaving techniques. Read about and study the different styles. Then, use paper and yarn to show the two different weaving techniques to your leader.

**Plaiting** is a very basic weaving style using the over and under process. You start at the bottom of the basket. Place your weaver on the outside of a rib and move inward, taking the weaver under the next rib. Bring the weaver out again and over the next rib. This continues until the weaver is ended or you reach the rim of the basket.
**TWINING** is a style of weaving used when you want to create a tightly woven basket. When you twine weave, you twist the weavers around the ribs using the crisscross method. You must fold your weaver/string in half. To begin twining, you will select an area on the side of the basket and place your weaver with half in front of the rib and half behind the rib. Twist or crisscross the weaver around the first rib. You will see that the weaver half from the back or inside is now in reverse position and the weaver from the front half is now in the back or inside. This will create a crisscross in the string/weaver. Continue taking the weaver on the outside or top of the rib and tuck it in. Then, take the inside weaver and bring it out so that you have created a twist or crisscross around the next rib. Continue working the twist/crisscross around each rib until you reach the end of the weaver. To start a new section of weaver or new row, wrap the next rib and repeat the process.

**PLAITING**  
**TWINING**

**TASK 5: PROJECT**

You will create a basket with the assistance of your troop leader.

**MATERIALS:**

- Base with ribs
- Weavers (select a material easy to work with and in your budget)
- Cutting tool

Choose which weaving technique you want to use, and complete a simple basket. Your leader will provide materials for you and the directions on assembling.
1 JOHN 5:4 NIV

“...Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.”

(Reference verses in Exodus 2:1–8, the story of Moses)

ON TARGET!

Think about the things in your life that are very special. Ask God to use them and show you what to do. He cares, He listens, and He will show you ways to serve Him.
To complete the Reach for the Stars project, finish the task below.

Plan a basketry project that will stretch your skills. Create a larger basket or a place mat set. Show your leader the finished project, and include a picture in your Explorer Notebook.
Basket making has been around since the beginning of civilizations. The uses of baskets range from decoration, collecting, storage, and transportation. Baskets give people the ability to carry more than their hands can hold. You may immediately think of a laundry basket or a gift basket, but people have been using baskets to work and function for thousands of years.

Archeologists have found remains of baskets in the pyramids and woven fibers inside vessels from Native Americans. Through research, historians have found that, when the explorers traveled and traded goods, those goods were often in woven baskets. That is how baskets traveled across the world to all continents and peoples! Before there were plastic storage containers and zipper baggies, there were baskets to store, transport, and carry goods.

To complete this emblem, you will need to decide on what materials you will use. There are natural materials available for purchase from hobby stores and online, as well as man-made materials for weaving. There are also simple kits available for group rates.

Whatever materials and style you choose, know that you are introducing the boys to a hobby that is a tradition for many cultures. Basketry has been a necessity for many families to function efficiently in their households. Thus, the skill behind the hobby has been passed down from generation to generation.

This emblem is created to be completed at the corps or in the camp setting.

To earn the Basketry emblem, Explorers must complete ALL of the tasks including the basketry project.

**TASK 1: MATERIALS**

There are a variety of materials available to use in making baskets. Typical materials to use are reeds, paper, raffia, rags, and sea grass. The material needs to be pliable or bendable so that you can use it to weave. You may want to bring in different materials from your local hobby store so that the boys can feel and get the idea of the different types. If they are making a basket to decorate their room, it can be made from paper, but you would not want to make a basket to use in your garden out of that same material. If the materials are not available for your troop to see, then spend time describing the basic materials featured on the next page.

Each Explorer will label the different baskets with the material used to weave them in their Explorer Handbook.
REEDS
These materials come from the stalk of tall plants. They will hold their shape after drying.

SEA GRASS
These baskets are sometimes referred to as wicker baskets. They need a strong frame to hold the weavers that come from a flowering water plant.

RAGS
These baskets are made with long strips of fabric. They are flexible and foldable.

PAPER
This can be made from a wide range of stocks, colors, and assortments of paper. This is not a strong basket. This style is usually for decorative purposes.

RAFFIA
This fiber comes from the large leaves of a palm tree. It can be dyed into very bright colors. Flexible, durable baskets can be made out of raffia.
There are several types of baskets. For this emblem, we will concentrate on four types. When your Explorers chose their projects, they may choose to make a specific basket. This task is an introduction to the various types of baskets, so they can be educated when they go to buy their materials.

**ONLINE RESOURCES**

http://www.basketmakers.com/topics/bytechnique/bytechmenu.htm
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basket_weaving

**COILED BASKETS:** These use grass and rushes.

**PLAITING BASKETS:** These are made with weavers that are wider.

**TWINING BASKETS:** These are created using stiff material such as roots and bark.

**WICKER BASKETS:** These baskets use materials such as reed or sea grass.

Baskets can be used for a plethora of tasks. Discuss with your troop the ways that they have used baskets or seen them used. They should make a list in their Explorer Handbooks. Examples of uses for baskets are listed below.

1. To store bread
2. Candy
3. Water
4. Egg collection
5. Wall decoration
6. Display
7. Purses/Totes
8. Laundry
**TASK 3: PARTS**

It is useful to know the parts of the basket when you are making a project. For this task, review the parts of the basket and have your Explorers label them in their Explorer Handbooks.

**BASE:** This is the bottom of the basket

**SIDE WALLS/SPOKES:** The vertical material coming up from the base

**RIM:** The top edge of the basket

**WEAVERS:** Long pieces of material used to make the horizontal weaving.
There are MANY styles of weaving. You will teach two techniques to the Explorers. If you have a more advanced group, there are tutorials online that can show more difficult styles. Once you have discussed and looked at the pictures of the two weaving styles, provide materials for the boys to practice the weaving technique.

**PLAITING (OVER AND UNDER)**

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- Scissors
- Construction paper
- Ruler
- Glue stick

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Take a 4 x 5 inch rectangle of construction paper. Fold it in half like a hamburger bun. Then fold it in half again.

2. Cut on the folds almost to the end. Leave a 1/2-inch to 1-inch border to prevent you from cutting all of the way through the paper. This will create a mat to hold your weaving strips.

3. Take a second piece of 4 x 5 inch paper, and cut 1 inch wide by 4 inch long strips across the paper.

4. Take a strip of paper and begin weaving it on the mat. If the paper begins slipping, add a dot of glue to the end.

5. Between each row, alternate between starting on top and starting on the bottom of the edge, and then continue until the mat is filled.
**TWINING**

**MATERIALS NEEDED:**

- Heavy paper
- Yarn
- Ruler
- Scissors

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Cut paper into a 3 x 5 inch piece.

2. Cut 1/4- to 1/2-inch strips lengthwise on the paper. Do not cut all the way through. Keep a 1/2-inch to 1-inch border on the top.

3. Cut a 24 inches long piece of string.

4. Fold the string in half.

5. Place the string on the left edge of the paper by the 1-inch border.

6. Take one string on top of the first strip and one string on the bottom of the strip.

7. Take the string from the back and pull it to the front. Take the string from the front and crisscross it to the back.

8. Continue this crisscross pattern to the end of the row.

9. Cross the string and take the top string over the strip on the right. Take the bottom string under the strip.

10. Continue making several rows until you have the feel for twining weaving.
The Explorers will do a weaving project. Decide together what kind of material to use. When making a basket, you will also need to purchase a base for each Explorer. There are many basic weaving kits that are inexpensive and fun to use.

The Explorers should use one of the weaving types that they practiced in task #4.

**MATERIALS:**

- Base with ribs
- Weavers (select a material easy to work with and in your budget)
- Cutting tool

Help the Explorers choose which weaving technique they want to use and complete a simple basket. If you buy weaving kits for the boys, they will come with instructions. There are also many books on weaving and instructional videos available.

**BOOKS**

*Basket Weaving 101* by Kay Phelps  
*Basic Basket Making* by Linda Franz

**ONLINE RESOURCES**

Basic square base weaving: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvjiD1MCA4s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VvjiD1MCA4s)  
Twining: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5GOvh4hooEw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5GOvh4hooEw)  
Making the sides: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijUNncuX_b1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijUNncuX_b1)  
Begin weaving: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjLCqOwETCA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjLCqOwETCA)  
Basket-making kits:  
https://store.schoolspecialty.com/OA_HTML/ibeCCtpltmDspRte.jsp?minisite=10206&item=503420&gclid=CO60zK2C3McCFYVAAQodVCoFTg  
1 JOHN 5:4 NIV

“...Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.”

(Reference verses in Exodus 2:1–8, the story of Moses)

SUPPLIES: A woven basket

INTRODUCTION: Can you tell me some things you can carry in this basket right here? (Give time for brainstorming and answers.) Baskets are handy to have around. Some people use them for decorations, storage, chores, transporting items, water, and goods.

Right now, I want you to think of something that is very, very special to you. It might be your favorite game system, your pet, your mom, your Bible, or something someone special has given to you.

How would you feel if I took that thing that you hold so dear and put it in a basket just like this, just big enough to hold your item, and then I carted it to the river and put the basket containing your most prized possession down into the water and let it float away! How would that make you feel?

In the Bible, we read a story about when this exact thing happened!

SCRIPTURE: Let’s read Exodus 2:1–8. In this story, Moses’s mother felt like she had no other choice, and she had to put her baby in a basket and send him down the river. She had to hand him over to God and let God take care of him. Can you imagine how she felt as she wove each part of that basket? I wonder if she prayed with each piece or if she went really slowly to put off the moment when she released Moses into the water. Even in the worst situation, God was in control. He had a plan for Moses and his family, and He has a plan for us today! 1 John 5:4 reminds us: “Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.”

Now, I’m not telling you to go put something in a basket, and set it to sail down the river. I am telling you that you can trust God even in the craziest situations. He knows what He is doing, and our Bible is filled with examples of this very thing.
ON TARGET!

Today, think about the things in your life that are very special. Ask God to use them and show you what to do. He cares, He listens, and He will show you ways to serve Him.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, Thank you for the Bible and for the examples of Your faithfulness we read about in it. Help us today to trust You with every part of our life. Sometimes, it is scary, but we know You understand and believe in us. Thank you for giving us the chance to trust You. Amen