

## Fall Pumpkin Centerpieces

### Materials:

Small pumpkins— stems clipped to about ½” if possible (this allows a “post” to stick the foam on)...if desired, wipe with a Clorox solution for longer-lasting pumpkins

Dried material cut into small pieces... dried flowers, pods, grasses, etc. (with enough firm stem to insert into foam)

Moss to use as filler

Dried-flower-arranging foam (not oasis used for fresh arrangements) cut into small cubes (about 1 ½” long, 1” wide)

Glue gun with glue sticks to attach filled foam to top of pumpkins

Paper plates—large

Scissors

It is amazing how little material is actually needed for each pumpkin. We got carried away the first time we did this and had way too much. Small pieces with firm stems are the key. Give each participant a pumpkin, a small piece of foam and a paper plate. If you arrange a variety of dried materials on trays beforehand, the clients can then gather the materials they’d like to use on their paper plate and begin arranging it all on the foam. Once the small arrangements are complete, a bit of dried moss can be tucked around the edges of the foam to hide it. Glue the foam to the top of the pumpkin (centering it and pushing in on the stem stub makes it a bit more firmly attached; but the glue should hold if there’s no stem). The pumpkins usually cost about \$1 each. You can purchase dried

materials or dry your own (gather small bunches with rubber bands and hang upside down in a dark, dry place for several weeks). Yarrow, golden rod and globe amaranth (if stems are strong) are good choices for drying. Several thin stems can be tightly wrapped with floral tape to make a sturdier “stem” to insert into the foam.



You could precede this craft with a discussion on the many types of winter squash, showing as many examples as you can and discussing ways to cook them. Spaghetti squash is one that is not too familiar. Try cooking one ahead of time and showing how this squash got its name!

