



EXPERIENCE THE
HEART OF KENDALLVILLE

Lantern Making Guide

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Box Lanterns

Supplies:

- Boxes, milk cartons or cardboard pop/beer containers
- Paint
- Colored tissue paper
- Pen or marker
- Box cutter, knife or scissors
- Button Lights
- Glue stick
- Masking tape
- Stencils (optional)



First, draw a design on your box in pencil or marker. Tracing a stencil also works well.

Using a box cutter, carefully cut the design out. I recommend flattening the box and inserting a cutting board to prevent cutting all the way through both sides. Boxes are also easier to manage this way.

Once your design is cut out, paint your box.

Use colored tissue paper to line the inside of the box where you've carved your design. Use masking tape to secure.

Use a button light to make your creation glow in the dark! (available at Dollar Tree for \$1 each, batteries not included)

Paper Lanterns

Supplies:

- Chinese Paper Lantern
- Button light and/or fairy lights
- Colored ribbons, coffee filters, cupcake holders, doilies, tissue paper, or other decorative items
- Elmer's glue or glue gun
- Pen or marker (optional)



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Assemble your lantern, then use ribbons, tissue paper, construction paper, or other items to decorate your lantern, attaching items with your glue gun. There are tons of ideas on Pinterest. When you're done, place fairy lights inside for a glow affect.

Bottle Lanterns

Supplies:

- 2-liter plastic bottles
- Button light and/or fairy lights
- Acrylic paint and brushes
- Elmer's glue
- Scissors or box cutter
- Fabric, tissue, ribbon, and/or other decorative items
- Pen or marker (optional)



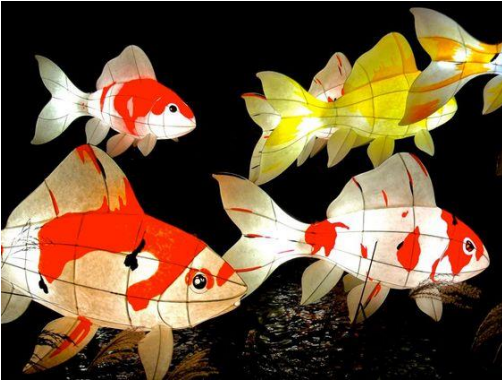
Bottle can be cut and painted, or you can cover them with scarves or decorative fabric. Just add lights!

Bamboo Lanterns

Supplies:

- Flexible bamboo stakes
- Button light and/or fairy lights
- Plastic wrap
- Colored tissue paper
- Elmer's glue or glue gun

- Glue stick
- Masking tape
- Fabric, ribbon, and/or other decorative items (optional)



Flexible bamboo can usually be found in garden centers, such as Home Depot and Lowe’s. You may have to soak it in water to get it pliable enough to manipulate.

Once you’ve chosen your design, begin shaping the bamboo into a 3-D model of your lantern, securing with masking tape.

Tightly wrap the entire piece in plastic wrap (this helps the tissue to secure to the lantern), then begin wrapping with colored tissue paper. Use glue stick or Elmer’s glue to secure the tissue paper. You can also use sheer fabric to cover your lantern, which is less likely to tear.

Place a button light inside and watch it shine!

Balloon Lanterns

Supplies:

- Balloons
- String
- Balloon lights
- Mod Podge or Elmer’s glue

- Paint brush
- Markers
- Yarn, doilies or other decorative items



Fill your balloon with helium, insert a balloon light, and tie it to a string. Now, you can draw or paint a design on your balloon, or get creative with lace fabric, yarn, and/or paper doilies, which you can attached with Mod Podge or Elmer's glue.

Umbrella Lanterns

Supplies:

- Paper OR fabric umbrella
- Fairy or string lights
- Flowers, markers, tissue paper, or other decorative items
- Glue



Open your umbrella and the sky is the limit! Rain clouds with cotton batting, jelly fish with ribbon tendrils, princess umbrellas with silk flowers and lace. Attached items with your glue gun or tie them to the under wire of your umbrella, then just add fairy lights. For paper lanterns, you can simply draw or paint your design on and add lights.

Lantern Parade Costume & Group Theme Ideas

- Feather boa/tutu ladies (men?)
- Witches
- Zombies (zombie walk)
- Scary clowns
- Pet parade (HSNC)
- Superheroes
- Celebrities
- Fairies, Gnomes and Trolls
- Animals
- Funky hats
- Locally significant themes (corn, apples, etc.)
- Christmas trees and décor
- Sea creatures
- Vampires
- Ghosts
- Dolls
- Stilt walkers
- Lighted hearses
- Lighted bicycles
- Lighted capes
- Marching jazz band
- Cool lighted cars
- Strolling tables

Kendallville Lantern Parade

<https://www.kendallvillemainstreet.com/lantern-parade>

More Inspiring Resources

- **Inspiration from another lantern parade community:** <https://www.chantellerytter.com/>
- **Costume Making Ideas and Designs:** <http://puppetco-op.org/>
- **Paper Lantern resources (just add lights!):** <https://www.paperlanternstore.com/>