



Scan this QR Code to visit the Tall Turf Ministries GEMS/ Cadets To Go Partnership page! There are many ideas on how to customize the items in this kit!

*Did you know... QR stands for "Quick Response"?*

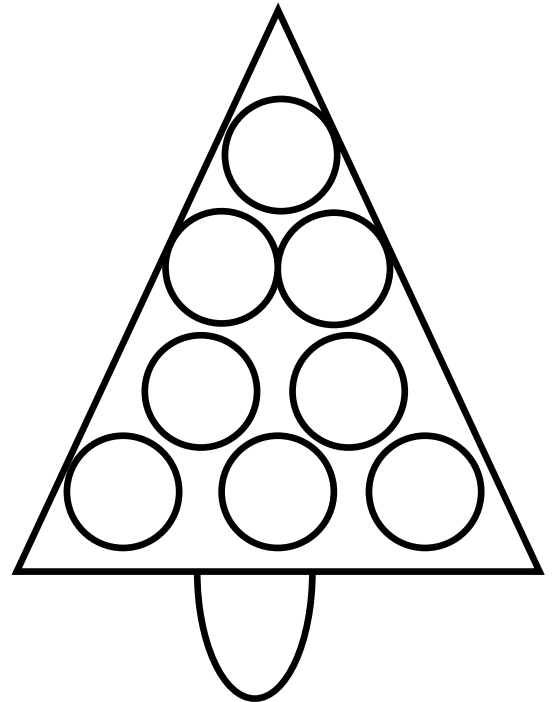
"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Luke 2:14

# Christmas Tree Ornament

## Materials:

- Pom Poms (10)
- String /Ribbon (1)
- Construction Paper
- Craft Stick (1)
- Small objects to use as décor (not provided)
- Glue (not provided)
- Scissors (not provided)



## Instructions:

1. Use the pom poms as a guide on the construction paper to mark and cut out a triangle shape to use as the background for the tree. Carefully cut out the triangle shape with scissors.
2. Use glue to secure each pom pom in a pattern that resembles a Christmas tree (see above).
3. There are MANY ways you can decorate your tree:
  - Buttons
  - Sequins
  - Painted Dry Beans
  - Beads
  - Jewels
  - Shapes cut from construction paper
  - *Whatever you can think of!*
4. Attach the craft stick to the back to resemble a trunk.
5. Loop the ribbon and attach to the ornament on the back. You can punch a hole in the top and hang with the ribbon in that fashion.

# Christmas Tradition Origins

**Christmas** is celebrated to remember the birth of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

The name '**Christmas**' comes from the Mass of Christ (or Jesus). A Mass service is where Christians remember that Jesus died for us and then came back to life.



**Twelve Days of Christmas** - The Christian 12 days of Christmas, which span the birth of Jesus and the visit of the Magi, take place December 25 to January 6. The earliest version of the poem-turned-song is thought to have been published in *Mirth Without Mischief*, a children's book from 1780, with the modern version credited to English composer Frederic Austin who set the poem to music. <sup>1</sup>

**Christmas Trees** - Decorated trees date back to Germany in the Middle Ages, with German and other European settlers popularizing Christmas trees in America by the early 19th century. <sup>1</sup>

**Advent Calendars** - Early versions of this tradition, started in Germany in 1903 by publisher Gerhard Land, offered a way for children to count down to Christmas by opening one "door" or "window" a day to reveal a Bible passage, poem or small gift. <sup>1</sup>

**Gingerbread Houses** - The elaborate cookie-walled houses, decorated with foil in addition to gold leaf, became associated with Christmas tradition in Germany in the 16th century. Their popularity rose when the Brothers Grimm wrote the story of Hansel and Gretel, in which the main characters stumble upon a house made entirely of treats deep in the forest. It is unclear whether or not gingerbread houses were a result of the popular fairy tale, or vice versa. <sup>2</sup>

**Ugly Christmas Sweaters** - This silly, ironic tradition that really gained steam in the 1980s. According to the *Ugly Christmas Sweater Party Book*, the sweaters became a party trend in Vancouver, Canada in 2001. <sup>1</sup>

**Cookies and Milk for Santa** - While leaving treats for Santa and his reindeer dates back to ancient Norse mythology, Americans began to sweeten up to the tradition during the Great Depression in the 1930s, as a sign of showing gratitude during a time of struggle. <sup>1</sup>

**Christmas Cards** - The first official Christmas card debuted in 1843 England with the simple message, "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You." <sup>1</sup>

## Sources

<sup>1</sup> Kennedy, L. (2020, December 15). How 25 Christmas Traditions Got Their Start. Retrieved from <https://www.history.com/news/christmas-traditions-history>

<sup>2</sup> P. (n.d.). History of Ginger Bread. Retrieved December 15, 2020, from <https://www.pbs.org/food/the-history-kitchen/history-gingerbread/>