

Peanutty Treats

WHAT YOU NEED

- 2 large pine cones
- 2 pieces of wire (each about 3 feet long)
- 1 cup peanut butter
- 2 cups birdseed
- 2 plates

WHAT YOU DO

1. Wrap a piece of wire around the top of each pine cone. Twist the ends of the wire together to form a loop for hanging.
2. Smear the cones with peanut butter. (Be sure to fill all the spaces between the pine-cone scales.)
3. Roll the cones in birdseed until they are completely covered.
4. Place each cone on a plate and put in the freezer for an hour.
5. Hang the cones on tree branches and watch squirrels go for the goodies!

WHAT'S A SQUIRREL'S FAVORITE BALLET? THE NUTCRACKER.



Take the Squirrel Challenge

Do you have what it takes to be a clever squirrel? Can you outwit hungry birds? What about angry people who will go to great lengths to keep you out of their bird feeders? If you have an iPhone or iPad, download the *Squirrel vs. Bird Feeder* game from the App Store and find out. This is a free app created by National Wildlife Federation, the group that publishes *Ranger Rick* magazine.

Got Squirrels?

BY GERRY BISHOP

Nutty facts, riddles, and activities in honor of Squirrel Appreciation Day, January 21.



And Now Appreciate THIS!

- A squirrel's front teeth never stop growing. Chewing on hard nuts keeps them worn down to the right length.
- Squirrels can sniff out food buried under a foot of snow.

- The food squirrels dig up is often not the food they buried.
- If a *gray squirrel* suspects that another squirrel is watching where it's hiding a nut, it only pretends to bury it.

Corny Stunt

WHAT YOU NEED

- large eye screw
- ear of dried corn (from store that sells birdseed)
- heavy string (or wire)

WHAT YOU DO

1. Twist a large eye screw into one end of the corn cob.
2. Tie a piece of heavy string to the eye, and tie the other end to a tree branch. The string should be long enough so the bottom of the corn cob is about 10 inches above the ground.
3. Watch squirrels leap onto the corn and swing to and fro. (**Tip:** If the squirrels don't seem to be interested in the corn, smear a little peanut butter on the cob to attract their attention.)

WHAT'S A CHIPMUNK'S FAVORITE GAME? HIDE-IN-CHEEK.



Squirrely Fun

(For Another Time)

Don't let the fun stop after Squirrel Appreciation Day. Try this goofy activity next fall.

WHAT DO ROBOT SQUIRRELS EAT? NUTS AND BOLTS.

WHAT YOU NEED

- small pumpkin
- large eye screw
- strong string (or wire)
- camera (optional)

WHAT YOU DO

1. Cut a squirrel-sized hole in the bottom of the pumpkin. Leave in most of the seeds and stringy stuff.
2. Carve jack-o'-lantern features into one side.
3. Twist a large eye screw into the stem or stem-end of the pumpkin.
4. Tie a piece of rope to the eye. Then tie the other end to the branch of a tree or other object. The bottom should be about 10 inches off the ground.
5. Get ready for a good laugh!