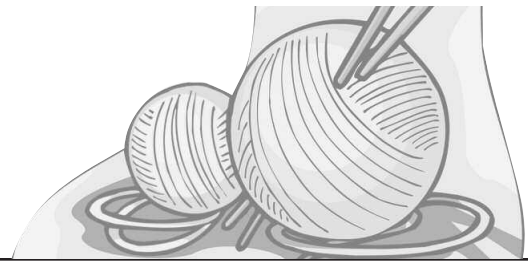


Unit 32: Handknitting for Youth

Sons of Norway Fraternal Department
Youth Level created September 2000 by Karly Christensen
Revised December 2004



INTRODUCTION

Knitting is a popular activity in Norway and in North America. There are a wide variety of imaginative and artistic patterns available for all types of knitted wearables, decorative items and even dog sweaters.

In the past, people had to make all the things they needed for daily life, such as farm implements, kitchen utensils and clothing. Knitting was considered essential knowledge in Norway for many years, as people required warm clothes during cold and bitter weather. Farmers raised sheep, so there was wool. People acquired the art of making beautiful dyes from moss and other plants. Knitting evolved from a utilitarian activity into a folk art where design and brilliant colors were increasingly important.

Knitting can be both a relaxing and challenging hobby. This unit, intended for youth, covers only the basics of knitting. If you would like to do more complex projects after completing the youth unit, request the adult guidelines and take a look at levels 2 and 3. We wish you many hours of knitting fun.

Guidelines for All Knitting Activities

In order to fulfill the requirements you must complete the activities marked with an asterisk and choose one additional activity from the category with the heading Elective Activities (See page 2).

THE BASICS

If you are just learning to knit, you may want to obtain a book on basic knitting. You will find a number of books on knitting in most bookstores as well as in your local library. The internet also has several free "How To" websites to explore.

To Do:

***1.** Write a short report (100–300 words) on what you have learned about knitting in Norway. Is there a difference between past and modern techniques, use of color and pattern? Has the distance between our two continents—Europe and America—led to differing developments in the folk arts? If possible, collect pictures to prove your points.

***2. a.)** Learn the following basics:

- Casting on
- Casting off
- Knit stitch
- Purl stitch
- Increase stitches
- Decrease stitches

b.) Create a glossary of knitting terms.

c.) Demonstrate basic knitting techniques in one or two simple items. For example, make a scarf from heavy yarns, using a pattern which requires both the knit and purl stitches. Or make a set of potholders (again using both knit and purl). Take a photo and enclose it with your Final Report.

d.) Find a project that requires you to demonstrate your knowledge of increasing and decreasing stitches, for example in the knitting of a mitten. Enclose a photo with your Final Report.



FINAL REPORT:

Complete a report form (p. 4) on your elective and required activities. Include photos of your completed projects, along with your essay on knitting in Norway. Complete and return the Evaluation Form.

SEND REPORTS AND MATERIALS TO:

Cultural Skills Reports
Sons of Norway
1455 West Lake Street
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Elective Activities

This section describes the elective activities that you may select for completing the handknitting unit.

***2.** Select one elective activity and complete.

1. Visit a crafts show, state or county fair, Scandinavian gifts shop or other places where you may find examples of Norwegian knitting designs. Take photos or obtain pictures of the garments. Interview a knitter or a salesperson knowledgeable about Norwegian designs. Ask how he/she became interested in knitting (doing it or making it available to the public), what satisfactions/frustrations he/she derives from the activity, etc.

Write a short article for your lodge newsletter or give an oral presentation in your lodge. Attach the article presentation to the Final Report.

2. Take the initiative to organize an exhibit in your lodge or community. Invite locals who handknit and make other Norwegian crafts and ask them to demonstrate their craft. Aim at a variety of items (minimum 25) for the exhibit. Check to see if there are other crafts people in your lodge or community who wish to co-sponsor the event. Enclose a short report on this activity as part of your Final Report.

3. Take the initiative to establish a class in your lodge or community. Search for self-study materials if a teacher is not available. Enclose a summary of your activity with the Final Report.

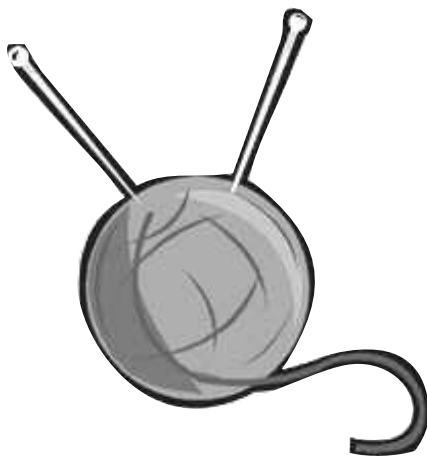
4. Form a sub-group of craft people in your lodge or community. Work together to fulfill the requirements for handknitting and other Norwegian cultural skills. Conduct or attend a minimum of four meetings. The instigator of the activity is not required to make presentations beyond organizing the meetings and making sure the meetings are published in the lodge newsletter or other publication. Enclose a summary of your activity with the Final Report.

5. Make a three to five smaller knit items, for example pot holders, toy animals, slippers, etc... for your lodge fund-raising event. Arrange a raffle for these items and others you collected from members. The proceeds may go to the Sons of Norway Foundation or to any other cause your lodge wishes. Take a picture of the items and enclose a summary of the activity with your Final Report.



Partial List of Books in English on Handknitting & Native Norwegian Art

Title	Publication
<u>The Folk Arts of Norway</u>	Stewart, Dover Publications
<u>Norwegian Knitting Designs</u>	Bøhn, Grøndahl-Søn Publishers
<u>Scandinavian Knitting Designs</u>	Chatterton, Charles Scribner's Sons
<u>Knit Your Own Norwegian Sweaters</u>	Dale Yarn Company, Dover Publications
<u>Knitting Norwegian Sweaters</u>	Dahlin, complete instructions including translation guide
<u>The New Knitting Library</u>	Goldberg, Crown Publishers
<u>Kids Knitting</u>	Falick, Artisan
<u>Teen Knitting Club: Chill Out And Knit Some Cool Stuff</u>	Wenger, Artisan
<u>Kids Can Knit: Fun And Easy Projects For Small Knitters</u> . . .	Clewer, Barron's Educational Series
<u>Kids Easy Knitting Projects</u>	Blanchette, Naadel, Williamson Publishing Company



Unit 32: Handknitting For Youth

I have completed the requirements for Handknitting for youth

I. Attached are:

- A. My essay on Norwegian folk-arts and knitting.
- B. I chose to make _____ to demonstrate my knowledge of some basic techniques. I am enclosing a photo.
- C. I chose to make _____ to demonstrate the decreasing and increasing techniques. A photo is attached.

II. I chose 1 2 3 4 5 (please circle one) to complete my elective activity requirement.

Name: _____

Lodge Name: _____ Dist#: _____ Lodge#: _____

Membership Number: _____ Age (if younger than 16): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____ Home Telephone: () _____

Have you received Cultural Skills Program pin awards previously? Yes No *If yes, please specify:* _____

Signature (Applicant) _____ Date _____

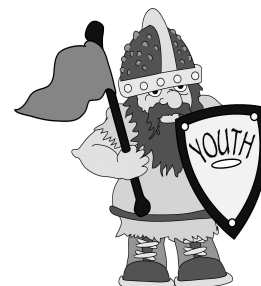
Printed name of Lodge Cultural/Social Director or designated person _____ Date _____

Mailing address of Cultural/Social Director, Secretary or other designated person _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____ Daytime Telephone: () _____

Signature (Headquarters) _____ Date _____

**Mail this form and your report to: Sons of Norway
Cultural Skills Report
1455 West Lake St.
Minneapolis, MN 55408**



EVALUATION FORM

Please keep this original and make the necessary copies to complete your report.

CULTURAL SKILL COMPLETED: Handknitting For Youth

Instructions: For each of the seven questions below, please check the box which fits your opinion most accurately. The choices are: **Agree (A)**, **Neutral (N)** and **Disagree (D)**. It would be helpful for improving the unit if you would also add your specific comments in the space provided.

	A	N	D
1. The instructions for this unit were easy to follow	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. The requirements for this unit were reasonable	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. There were enough varied choices for optional activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. There were enough instructions and guidelines for doing the activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. The unit provided interesting activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. The unit increased my understanding of Norwegian heritage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. The unit promoted my involvement in the lodge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

SPECIFIC COMMENTS: In the space below, please add other comments and suggestions you may have with respect to this unit. Your comments are confidential and in no way affect the awarding of your completed pin/bar.

Please send the Evaluation Form to:
Culture Department
Sons of Norway
1455 West Lake Street
Minneapolis, MN 55408