

Caps for Good

Overview:

Help save newborns around the world by knitting or crocheting caps that keep babies warm and increase their chances of survival. There are other knitting projects that help children, seniors, and people with cancer. Read about these ideas at [Warm Up America](http://www.craftyarnCouncil.com/warmup.html) <http://www.craftyarnCouncil.com/warmup.html>

This service-learning project provides students with a creative approach to making a difference in addressing issues impacting children. As part of this project, students are encouraged to make a cap, write a letter to the president, and raise funds for newborn care.

Form a Knitting or Crocheting Club

Gather friends to knit, share materials, teach knitting or crocheting, and make caps for babies or others. The club may choose to advertise in order to gain members or ask for yarn donations for the cause of newborn survival. Caps may be knitted to meet a local or international need.

Working with the Community: Contact the local knitting or crocheting guild and/or yarn shop for assistance. Invite parents, grandparents, or neighbors to come to meetings to help fix mistakes and provide knitting tips. People love to be personally invited to help. They'll also donate yarn!

Supplies:

Ask club members to bring a kit with their own supplies:

- knitting needles (size 8, short) or a crochet hook (size h, i or j)
- scissors and plastic sewing needle
- colorful worsted-weight yarn
- gallon-sized resealable plastic bag or canvas bag with name on it to carry supplies

Tips for Club Meetings:

- Set a weekly time for your club meetings. This gathering time will be important, especially at first because you'll do your instruction (and lots of re-teach!) during the meetings. Provide a handout with visual instructions and show a video clip that will walk students through the steps.
- Set aside times during the week to check on students' progress. Students are more likely to add stitches to their patches if they know that there is assistance available to help fix mistakes.



- Follow the patterns available in the *Warm Up America* kit at <http://www.craftyarncouncil.com/warmup.html>. If your students are too young to follow a pattern, teach them to make a rectangular patch and then to sew it across the top and down the sides.
- Students love to add pom-poms to their caps, so find someone who can teach how to make them to add a special touch to their finished products.
- Display the finished caps hanging on a “clothes line” bulletin board for everyone to see. Students love to have their handiwork hanging around.

Recruiting Other Knitters:

Host a Stitch-In at a spot in the community like the library or a community center. Post information online to attract community knitters and crocheters. This will be a great chance for struggling students to get assistance, for accomplished students to soar, and for a fun social opportunity as well.

Want to pique your students’ interest in working with fibers? Why ‘knot’ share these illustrated picture books that weave in a knitting theme:

Knitting Nell by Julie Jersild Roth, *Shall I Knit You A Hat?* by Kate Klise, *Milo Armadillo* by Jan Fearnley, *Red Berry Wool* by Robyn Eversole, *Martha Moth Makes Socks* by Cambria Evans

