

Making the Most of Fall this Year

BY KAYLIE LATHE

Fall is finally here! We can trade the shorts for pants, bring out the scarves and get excited for pumpkin flavored everything! The day we've been waiting for since we were hit by the first sticky hot Oklahoma day is finally here.

Make the most of fall by filling it with fun activities. When deciding what to do consider some of these festive ideas.

Craft

Crafts are fun any time of year, but fall brings a colorful spin on my favorite hobby! There are countless fall crafts. Think about all the possibilities that can be done with just a pumpkin!

This year the hot print has been chevron, but just because summer is over doesn't mean we have to pack it away. Chevron pumpkins are a cute spin on an old tradition. All you will need for this craft is a pumpkin (it can be real or fake, but the fake ones can be used again next year and are a little easier to work with), tape, scissors or razor blade, paint and clear sealant if you are using a real pumpkin.

Shellac a real pumpkin with the clear sealant and let dry. The next step is to tape off the pumpkin in a chevron pattern. There are a couple ways to do this. Measure out the length of each piece of tape and how far apart each point of the chevron should be to make the pattern even. Using

a ruler to draw out the pattern with a pencil first and then applying the tape is also a great way to make sure the pattern is even. Tape off the base of the stem as to make sure no paint gets on it. Paint the pumpkin after all the tape has been placed. Make sure to not paint it heavily near the tape, just enough to cover. Make sure the paint is completely dry and peel off the tape if you can. Razoring off the tape may be required on a real pumpkin if the peeling isn't working. To razor the tape off, gently razor along the tape being careful to not pierce the pumpkin. Working in small sections, peeling of the sections of tape as you go. This a great activity the whole family can help with, but make sure the razoring is left up to an adult. The result will be a chic fall decoration.

While this craft is for adults, there are crafts for all ages. Fall craft ideas and how-to's can be found on Pinterest and other websites. So find your favorites and get crafting!

Pumpkin Patches

Pumpkin patches aren't just for kids and many of them offer much more than just pumpkins.

GRIDER FARM

Located just outside of Perkins, a short drive from Stillwater, Grider Farm boasts 45 acres of pumpkins and gourds to explore. You can stop by anytime

PUMPKIN PATCH TIPS...

- Wear comfortable shoes & clothes you don't mind getting a little dirty
- Bring cash
- Take a vehicle that can handle rough roads
- If in a car, line the back with cardboard in case of dirty pumpkins
- Apply sunscreen to exposed areas if visiting in the daytime
- Bring a jacket if visiting in the evening

Chevron Pumpkins



between daylight and dark to find the perfect pumpkin (or pumpkins), load them up and pay back at the ranch house. The farm also offers a three acre living maze and opportunities for picnicking and hiking. Hay rides and parties are available by appointment. Call Grider Farm at (405)547-2722 for information, directions and appointments.

ROCKIN' STAR FARM

Located on Alamo Road just north of Stillwater, Rockin' Star Farm has tons of activities for the whole family. Visit to enjoy a pumpkin patch, petting zoo, spooky hay ride, camp fires, play areas and several places to relax. The farm also opens for field trips and parties by appointment. The farm also opens up for special events throughout the month of October. Dates, times and information about these events can be found on their website, www.rockinstarfarm.com or their facebook page, facebook.com/rockinstarfarm.



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AT ROCKIN' STAR FARM**

PUMPKINS

Rockin' Star Farm

**ROCKIN' STAR LODGE SPOOKY TRAIL
CAMPFIRES PETTING ZOO
HAY RIDES PLAYGROUND
FIELD TRIPS & PARTIES**

**17351 ALAMO ROAD
STILLWATER, OK
405-612-0287
WWW.ROCKINSTARFARM.COM**

Baking

Remember when I said to get ready for pumpkin flavored everything? Well, here is where that comes in. There are so many recipes that scream fall, but pumpkin bread was always a staple for my family. It's a pretty easy process, too. Follow the directions, bake and enjoy!

Ingredients

- 2 EGGS
- 1 C SUGAR
- ½ C BROWN SUGAR
- ½ C BUTTER OR MARGARINE, SOFTENED
- 1 TABLESPOON VANILLA EXTRACT
- 1½ CUPS ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR
- ½ TEASPOON BAKING SODA
- ¼ TEASPOON BAKING POWDER
- ¼ TEASPOON SALT
- ½ TEASPOON GROUND CINNAMON
- ½ TEASPOON GROUND NUTMEG
- 1½ CUP CANNED PUMPKIN

Instructions

- PREHEAT OVEN TO 350F.
- IN A LARGE BOWL, SIFT DRY INGREDIENTS.
- IN A MIXING BOWL, BEAT SUGAR AND BUTTER UNTIL CREAMY.
- ADD EGGS ONE BY ONE WHILE STILL MIXING.
- ADD VANILLA.
- SLOWLY ADD DRY INGREDIENTS.
- BY HAND, MIX IN PUMPKIN.
- POUR INTO A GREASED AND FLOURED LOAF PAN.
- BAKE AT 350F FOR 45 MINUTES.
- COOL FOR AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE

It's time to enjoy fall and all the fun it brings! Go to a pumpkin patch, make a craft or bake something! If you just want to relax, run by the nearest coffee shop and grab a pumpkin latte and snuggle up and enjoy the weather. Whatever it is you decide to do this fall, just remember to slow down, enjoy and make the most of it!