



Beads of Courage Encouragement Program

Bead Bag Instructions



Supplies needed:

- **100% cotton (no flannel) for boys and girls, ages newborn to teens.**
 - **.3 meter for outside of bag**
 - cut into 2 pieces of fabric 10 ½" x 13" for front and back of bag
- **.3 meter for inside of bag (coordinating fabric)**
 - cut into 2 pieces of fabric 10 ½" x 13" or 1 piece of fabric 20 ½" x 13"
- **1.3 meters cording: narrow 100% polyester knit (no ribbon or cotton twist)**
 - cut into 2 equal length pieces appx. ~24" each
 - Cording can be found at Michaels

Cording Notes

16' would make 4 bags

21' would make 10.5 bags

100' would make 50 bags



- **"Beads of Courage Bead Bag" labels**

OUTSIDE BAG:

To assemble:

On "front" outer bag piece **stitch "Beads of Courage" label** on using blanket stitch. Place ~2" in from right side seam and 3 ½" up from bottom of bag.

With right sides together mark, with a pin at the seam allowance, the opening for the draw string 1 ¾" and 2 ½" down from the top of the bag. Stitch front and back 2 pieces together using ¼" seam allowance, **backstitching** at both top and bottom of bag and at top and bottom of opening. Press seams open.

INSIDE BAG:

With right sides together stitch ¼" seam allowance, backstitching at both top and bottom of seam allowance. Press seams open.

Putting bag together:

Put right sides of outside and inside of bag together. **Do not** match side seams of the outside and inside of bag as it makes the seams too thick when making the French seam on the bottom of the bag. Stitch around **TOP** of bag at $\frac{1}{4}$ ".

*****Take note where label is and make sure stitching around top of bag.**

Now turn so wrong sides together and press around top.

Keeping the bag right side out lay flat and line up the bottom edges. Trim the bottom of bag if there has been any shift in the fabric so cut edges are even. Stitch across and through all 4 layers at $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam allowance. Make sure you are catching all 4 layers.

Now turn the bag wrong side out and stitch again across the bottom of bag with $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance using a tight stitch length. The $\frac{1}{8}$ " seam allowance will be sandwiched between layers. This is called a French Seam. All raw edges will be enclosed now.

DRAWSTRING CASING AND CORD:

Please note that ribbon and cotton twist cord are **not** acceptable as they do not hold up for the constant use of these bags and must be removed before distribution. We ask that you use the correct cording.

Turn bag right side out and press. Stitch all around bag through both layers of fabric $1\frac{1}{2}$ " from top and then again at $2\frac{1}{4}$ " from top. This will create the slot/casing for the drawstring cords.

Melt the cord ends with a flame (match) to secure cord from unraveling.

Using a big eyed needle thread 1 piece of cord through the **RIGHT** slot opening on seam allowance all the way around and back out the "**same**" **RIGHT** slot. Tie the two ends in a big knot so knot is at the very end. Do the same for the **LEFT** slot.

Your Bead bag is now complete to gift to a child in the Beads of Courage Program. Thank you for your handmade work of art that becomes the home of a child's Beads of Courage collection.

Thank you for having the courage to care.

Contact Information:

Rae Parry

Director of Artist Donations

rae@beadsofcourage.ca