

# Pinecone Bird Feeders

Ready to bring some feathered friends to your backyard? Let's make pinecone bird feeders! This simple craft is perfect for kids and grown-ups alike, as you get to explore nature while creating something fun and functional. Birds will love visiting your homemade feeders, and you'll get to enjoy watching them up close. It's a messy, sticky, and delightful way to connect with the outdoors!



## Materials List:

- **Large, open pinecones** (gather from your yard or a park)
- **Peanut butter** (or a nut-free alternative like sunflower seed butter)
- **Birdseed mix** (pick one with seeds that attract a variety of birds)
- **String or twine** (for hanging your pinecones)
- **Butter knife or popsicle stick** (for spreading the peanut butter)
- **Scissors** (to cut the string)
- **Paper plates or trays** (to catch the mess while you work!)

## **Instructions:**

1. **Pick Your Pinecone:** Find a nice, large pinecone that's open and ready to hold lots of birdseed. Give it a gentle shake to get rid of any dirt or small bugs.
2. **Attach the String:** Tie a piece of string or twine around the top of the pinecone, making sure it's secure enough to hang. Leave a long enough piece so you can easily tie it to a tree branch later.
3. **Spread the Peanut Butter:** Use a butter knife or popsicle stick to spread peanut butter all over the pinecone. Make sure to get it in between the scales so there's plenty of surface for the birdseed to stick!
4. **Roll in Birdseed:** Pour birdseed onto a paper plate or tray. Roll the sticky, peanut-butter-covered pinecone in the birdseed, pressing gently so the seeds stick. Get as much birdseed on there as you can!
5. **Shake Off the Excess:** Gently shake off any loose seeds that didn't stick. Your pinecone should be fully covered and ready to go!
6. **Find the Perfect Spot:** Head outside and find a tree or sturdy bush where you can hang your bird feeder. Make sure it's a spot where you can easily watch the birds enjoy their snack!
7. **Hang It Up:** Tie your pinecone feeder to a branch, and wait for the birds to come flocking. It might take a little while for them to find it, but soon enough, you'll have a busy birdfeeder!

## **Craft Bonus: Add Some Flair!**

Want to make your pinecone bird feeders even more special? Try adding dried fruits like raisins or cranberries to the peanut butter for an extra treat. You can also sprinkle some crushed nuts or sunflower seeds on top for variety. If you're feeling adventurous, make several feeders and hang them around the yard for a bird buffet!