

## Guide to Tie for Sky High

Sky High's mission is to bring communities together to provide comfort, fund research and save lives of those fighting pediatric cancer and other life-threatening conditions. Tie for Sky High is about providing comfort to children who are fighting for their lives. We encourage you to join us in making warm, fuzzy blankets for the patients of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and Texas Children's Cancer Center.

### Supplies

- 100% anti-pill fleece fabric cut 1-1/2 yards X 1-1/2 yards. Match a patterned top with a solid bottom or get funky with two patterns! You get to choose the fabric pattern! We love cheery, fun patterns, sports logos, geographic designs and everything in between! What kind of blanket would you want to snuggle up with?
- Fabric scissors – Fiskar 9" Dressmaker Shears
- Scissor sharpener
- Bags for the blankets – any jumbo 2 gallon bag to individually package and seal each blanket
- Tables - 5' X 5' minimum
- First-aid kit (just in case!)
- Hand sanitizer for the group

### Where to Find Supplies

- Wal-Mart has great prices but limited selection. They will cut the material into the size needed for you at the fabric counter!
- JoAnn Fabric is pricey but has a great selection. They will cut the material into the size needed for you. Make sure to keep an eye out for their sales!
- Michael's has a good selection of pre-cut, no-sew kits that are a bit more expensive than buying fabric. They have great sales, make sure to check them out!
- Online you can find great prices, but the fabric comes in bolts that you will have to cut into 1-1/2 yards. You need a good size space to cut the fabric, so we recommend trying this last.

### Our Process

- Please have your entire group wash their hands before touching any blanket supplies and use hand sanitizer throughout the process! These blankets are given directly to pediatric cancer families so we want to make sure everything is as clean as possible!
- Make sure to wipe down and sanitize all surfaces before laying out blanket materials. Match the top and bottom layers of fabric as closely as possible and smooth out on a flat surface. A dining table is the perfect height!
- Cut off the excess material so the top and bottom blanket are exactly the same size.
- Cut 3" X 3" squares out of each corner (We've found that a standard Post It Note is the perfect size.)

- Cut approximate 1" wide by 3" long strips around the entire blanket.
- Tie together the matching top and bottom strips around the entire blanket. Pro tip- tie two knots in each strip and make sure the first knot is somewhat loose, then tighten up on the second knot. If the first knot is too tight the blanket forms a bubble shape instead of lying flat!
- Not ready to tie right away? Then just tie all the corners so the blanket can be stored and tied later!

### **Anything Else?**

- The approximate cost of material to make one blanket is \$12 to \$25.
- Make sure to purchase a variety of fabric that works for boys and girls of all ages!
- Bring some pre-cut blankets to any blanket-making event as an example and so teams can get started tying while waiting on blankets to be cut.
- To determine how much material is needed, assume a 5-person team can complete one blanket every 30 minutes.
- We encourage a BYOBS (Bring Your Own Blanket Supplies) event where everyone brings material to make at least one blanket.
- We encourage adults to cut the blankets and handle any sharp materials, so the kids don't have to!

### **Last Steps**

- When your blankets are finished please let a Sky High staff member know so that drop off/pick up can be coordinated.
- Do you have what it takes to be a stellar Sky High Volunteer? Recruit some friends for your next Tie for Sky High party and tag us in your social media posts @SkyHighForKids!