

Pinecone Woodchuck



Say goodbye to Wisconsin woodchucks for a few months! They are heading into their underground burrows until spring comes. One of the few true hibernators in our state, woodchucks have spent the summer eating leaves, flowers, berries and insects to prepare for about six months of going without food. During this time their body temperature lowers to forty degrees Fahrenheit, and their breathing rate slows to just one breath every five minutes. Even at this drastically lowered rate of metabolism, they will still lose about forty percent of their body weight during hibernation. We'll miss seeing them foraging on the grounds at ALNC and look forward to them emerging in the spring!

MAKE YOUR OWN PINECONE WOODCHUCK

Materials: Pinecone, felt or construction paper, glue, scissors, string (optional)

Directions:

1. Cut out three circles for the nose and eyes, two slightly smaller circles for the inner eyes, and two half circles for the ears.
2. Glue the nose, eyes, and ears onto the pinecone.
3. Tie a string to the top of the pinecone to hang your woodchuck up.