Christmas Paper Chain Garland

Crafter level: Easy

What you'll need

- Markers, stickers and glitter glue (optional)
- Printouts of our Christmas patterns, scrapbook paper or construction paper, cut into strips
- White glue, tape or stapler

How to make it

1. Decorate some of the strips with markers, stickers or glitter glue and let dry (optional).
2. Form a strip into a circle by putting the ends together. (If using papers with patterns on just one side, make sure you form the ring right side out.)
3. Glue, tape or staple the ends together.
4. Take another strip, lace it through the first circle and glue, tape or staple that one together at the ends.
5. Repeat this step until you've made the garland as long as you need. On the last chain, autograph your creation with your names and the date.
6. Hang it up!

Fun twists

- Instead of an advent calendar or Christmas countdown, make a Christmas "count your blessings" chain. Every day until Christmas, each member of the family writes a good memory from that day on a link. Let kids sign and date inside the final link.
- Build your chain out of the fronts of recycled Christmas cards. Also, cut a strip out of the signed inside of the card and add it to the chain.
- Make a countdown chain by adding a number and a Christmas activity to do written on each chain link. Then, each day, pull off one of the links and do the activity listed.
- Decorate your chains with favorite Christmas song titles, lyrics, book quotes, scripture or even wish-list items. Next year, It'll be fun to look back to see what each member of the family considered important then.
- Use pinking shears or scalloped-edge scissors when cutting the strips for extra decoration. Or use gift-wrap, old sheets of music or newspaper for the strips.