AUTUMN GLOW LANTERNS

Creative Arts Wednesday | November 4, 2026 | 12:00–1:00 PM

Goal: Each participant creates a fall-inspired, battery-lit lantern using a clear plastic container and decorative materials.

Materials & setup

• One clean, clear plastic jar or container per participant (wide openings preferred; no glass)
• Tissue paper in fall colors (orange, red, yellow, brown; other colors welcome)
• Battery-operated LED tea light or small LED light per lantern (no real candles)
• Washable decoupage glue or white school glue diluted slightly with water; disposable cups
• Foam brushes or paintbrushes for spreading glue
• Paper or artificial fall leaves, stickers, ribbons, twine, optional pre-cut paper shapes
• Scissors (staff supervision as needed), table coverings, trays or paper plates
• Paper towels, wipes, trash bags, name labels, and drying area

Before participants arrive | 11:45–12:00

Cover tables; arrange supplies into shared stations. Confirm that all LED lights work and batteries are secure. Prepare a sample lantern. Pre-cut tissue squares and shapes for participants who may benefit from them. Set up a labeled drying area.

Activity timeline | 12:00–1:00

12:00–12:08 — Welcome & demonstration: Show the sample. Explain that tissue paper and decorations will be layered on the outside of the container, with the battery LED placed inside only when the lantern is ready.

12:08–12:15 — Design choices: Participants select tissue colors, fall decorations, and a design idea. Staff assist with planning or pre-cutting as requested.

12:15–12:40 — Create lanterns: Apply a thin layer of glue to the outside of the container; place tissue pieces; gently brush another thin layer over them. Add fall-themed shapes or leaves. Avoid heavy glue buildup and keep the container opening and LED light dry.

12:40–12:50 — Finishing touches: Add ribbons, stickers, or a name label. Place lanterns in the drying area. If surfaces are still wet, wait to insert the light until dry enough for safe handling.

12:50–1:00 — Glow reveal & cleanup: Turn on LEDs in dry lanterns, invite participants to share their designs, wipe tables, collect supplies, and wash hands.

Staff support & safety

Offer choices by showing colors or samples; provide hand-over-hand support only with consent. Participants may place large tissue shapes or stickers rather than using glue brushes. Use plastic containers and battery LEDs only. Keep button-cell batteries inaccessible; staff handle battery compartments and check they are secured. Do not place wet glue or tissue over electrical parts. Allow adequate drying before packing or transporting lanterns.

Completion check

Each lantern is labeled, LED is working and secure, supplies are accounted for, and wet lanterns are left to dry safely before transport.