Buzz Saw

If you complete this craft at home, send us a picture or a video to skyem@jonesboroughtn.org and we will share it on our Facebook page!

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Step 1. Thread the string through the button holes. Thread the string through two holes that are diagonal to each other, not side by side.

Step 2. Even up the ends of the string and tie them together with a knot at the bottom.

Here's what you need: A Button and String!
How To Make the Buzz Saw Work:

1) With one hand on each end of the string, wind the buzz saw up by turning it over and over in your direction. Watch out for your face.

2) When the string is wound up, pull on both ends at the same time. The button should spin in the middle.

3) Keep pulling in and out on both ends, like a bellows or accordion, and the button will keep turning. If it doesn’t turn at first, wind it up again.

4) This is a toy that takes a little practice. Don’t give up.

Step 3. Slide the button into the middle of the string.
“The Buzz Saw is one of the most popular noisemakers of all times! Indigenous Peoples made “buzzers” from a circular piece of bone or antler and used sinew instead of string. Colonial children played with buzz saws. This type of noisemaker was also known as “button on a string” during the Victorian period and later. A very large button from a mother’s sewing basket could be strung for this toy. Coins, bamboo, stones, and seashells have also been used to make this toy. Tin was even used, and teeth were cut around the circumference so that the disc would shred a piece of paper when the two came in contact. Made this way, it resembles a circular saw blade, and this is where it got the name Buzz Saw. Other names are Whizzer, Whirligig, Whiligig, Moonwinder, and Skyewinder.”

Prepared by the Heritage Alliance, 212 East Sabin Drive Jonesborough, TN. For more information about our programs and activities, visit www.heritageall.org. Follow us on Facebook and like the Chester Inn Museum on YouTube.