

## Boys Town *#MyTeacherRocks* Teacher Appreciation Activity

<p><b>Overview</b></p>	<p>Teacher Appreciation Day <i>#MyTeacherRocks</i> rock designing.</p> <p>This plan has several options for implementation and follow-up. You can choose which options you would like to use for your own Teacher Appreciation Day, or you can do several of them and split the activities over several days during Teacher Appreciation Week, if desired.</p>
<p><b>Age</b></p>	<p>All ages – Elementary, Middle or High School</p>
<p><b>Objective</b></p>	<p>Students will use this activity as a cost-effective way to show appreciation for their teachers. Students will be asked to decorate the rocks and include one reason why their teacher “rocks.” By using the <i>#MyTeacherRocks</i> activity in your school, staff members will feel appreciated and acknowledged for their hard work, and students will be able to practice <b>Showing Appreciation</b> and “filling up others’ buckets.” This activity can also help build relationships between staff members and students.</p>
<p><b>Skill Steps</b></p>	<p><b>Showing Appreciation</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Look at the person.</li> <li>2. Use a pleasant, sincere voice tone.</li> <li>3. Say “Thank you for…” and specifically describe what the person did that you appreciate.</li> <li>4. If appropriate, give a reason for why it was so beneficial.</li> <li>5. Offer future help or favors on your part.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Materials Needed</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium- to large-sized smooth rocks</li> <li>• Crayons, oil pastels, paint or another medium for decorating rocks/printouts</li> <li>• Plastic cups to rinse off paintbrushes</li> <li>• Lots of paper towels to dry brushes and clean up</li> <li>• Old newspaper, plastic bags or other materials to cover work areas</li> <li>• Printed examples of finished rocks to give students ideas</li> </ul> <p><i>Optional</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skill steps written on board for <b>Showing Appreciation</b></li> <li>• Mod Podge to cover rocks</li> <li>• <i>#MyTeacherRocks</i> paper rock cutouts</li> <li>• <i>#MyTeacherRocks</i> tag printouts</li> <li>• Digital camera to photograph students or teachers with their rocks</li> <li>• Designated area to display rocks</li> <li>• Consent to Release Photo/Image Form</li> </ul>

<p><b>Activity</b></p>	<p><b>Who?</b> While this activity is proposed for students in your school, administrators are also encouraged to design their own rocks for staff members or find another way to show appreciation for school staff. Recipients can include homeroom, art, gym, music or any other teachers in your school. This activity can also be extended to include school counselors, janitors, cafeteria workers and other various employees who interact regularly with your students.</p> <p><b>What?</b> Your school may already have most of the art supplies available, but the rocks will most likely need to be collected from a local landscaping or construction company. To save on costs, look to local businesses or homeowners for donations of leftover rocks from an outdoor project, or you can search for a connection to a supplier through parents of your students.</p> <p><b>When/Where?</b> This can be given to students as a take-home activity with instructions on a handout, but participation may be higher if it is completed during school hours. This could be completed as part of an art lesson. Rock painting could be tied into a lecture on cave paintings or aboriginal art, or it could be related to famous rocks, such as the Rosetta Stone or Plymouth Rock. Another option is to use our FREE printable teacher coupons from our website, (<a href="http://bit.ly/appreciatestaff">http://bit.ly/appreciatestaff</a>) to excuse a teacher one hour early from his/her classroom. This not only gives you an opportunity to complete this activity privately with students, but it also shows appreciation for the teacher by giving them some extra time to complete other tasks, such as grading assignments or putting together upcoming lesson plans.</p> <p><b>How?</b> Once you have all of your supplies set up and students are ready to begin the activity, explain to them that this is a way in which they are able to show appreciation for teachers and staff members. You can use this as an opportunity to teach your students the skill steps to <b>Showing Appreciation</b> or about what it means to “fill up others’ buckets.” Students may choose their own staff member to gift their rock to, or you can assign someone for each student to ensure that all staff members receive one. Use the decorating tips attached to this packet to guide your students, and instruct them to write or draw a reason why their person “rocks” within their design. If needed, the tag printouts may be used to give the students a way to describe what their image represents. You may use the examples from one of our social media sites to show the students how these rocks might look once they are completed. Once the decorating is finished, find a safe spot where you can store the rocks to dry until they can be presented to your staff members. The gifting of the rocks could be done individually by the students or as a group during a school assembly for Teacher Appreciation Day.</p>
<p><b>Follow-Up</b></p>	<p>Once your students have presented the rocks to your staff members, you may want to display the rocks somewhere in your school. This could be done separately in each classroom/office, or you could find a more heavily-trafficked area to display all of them together. Rocks may be placed outdoors in a school garden or along a walkway. Paper rocks could be posted on a school bulletin board or in a large display cabinet.</p> <p><b>Share</b> pictures of your rock displays or your staff and students with their rocks on your school’s social media sites using the <i>#MyTeacherRocks</i> tag. If you are posting pictures of students, make sure you have received parental permission to post pictures. (A template for photo/image release can be found in this packet.) At the end of the school year, teachers/staff members could then choose to take home their rocks.</p>

### Tips for Decorating #MyTeacherRocks Rocks

1. Look for smooth rocks. Besides outside, you can also buy rocks from a craft store or Dollar Store. Ask PTA/PTO parents if they have any contacts that can be used to collect rock donations.
2. Rinse your rocks with water first and set them out to dry. This will remove any dust or residue from the surface, which will make decorating easier.
3. Have a variety of brushes available if you are using paint.
4. Use acrylic-based paint. Oil pastels or permanent markers also work very well on most rocks.
5. If using paint, apply 2-3 coats to really make the design pop.
6. *Optional:* Cover the finished rocks with Mod Podge to help protect them. This is especially useful if you are planning on displaying the rocks outside.

*Find examples of finished rocks, social media photos, #MyTeacherRocks displays and MORE online!*

#### Workshops, Online Training & Additional Resources

[www.boystowntraining.org/blog.html](http://www.boystowntraining.org/blog.html)  
1-800-545-5771



#### Boys Town Press

[www.boystownpress.org](http://www.boystownpress.org)  
1-800-282-6657



#### Pinterest

[Pinterest.com/BoysTownMission](https://www.pinterest.com/BoysTownMission)



#### Twitter

[@BT\\_Ed](https://twitter.com/BT_Ed)

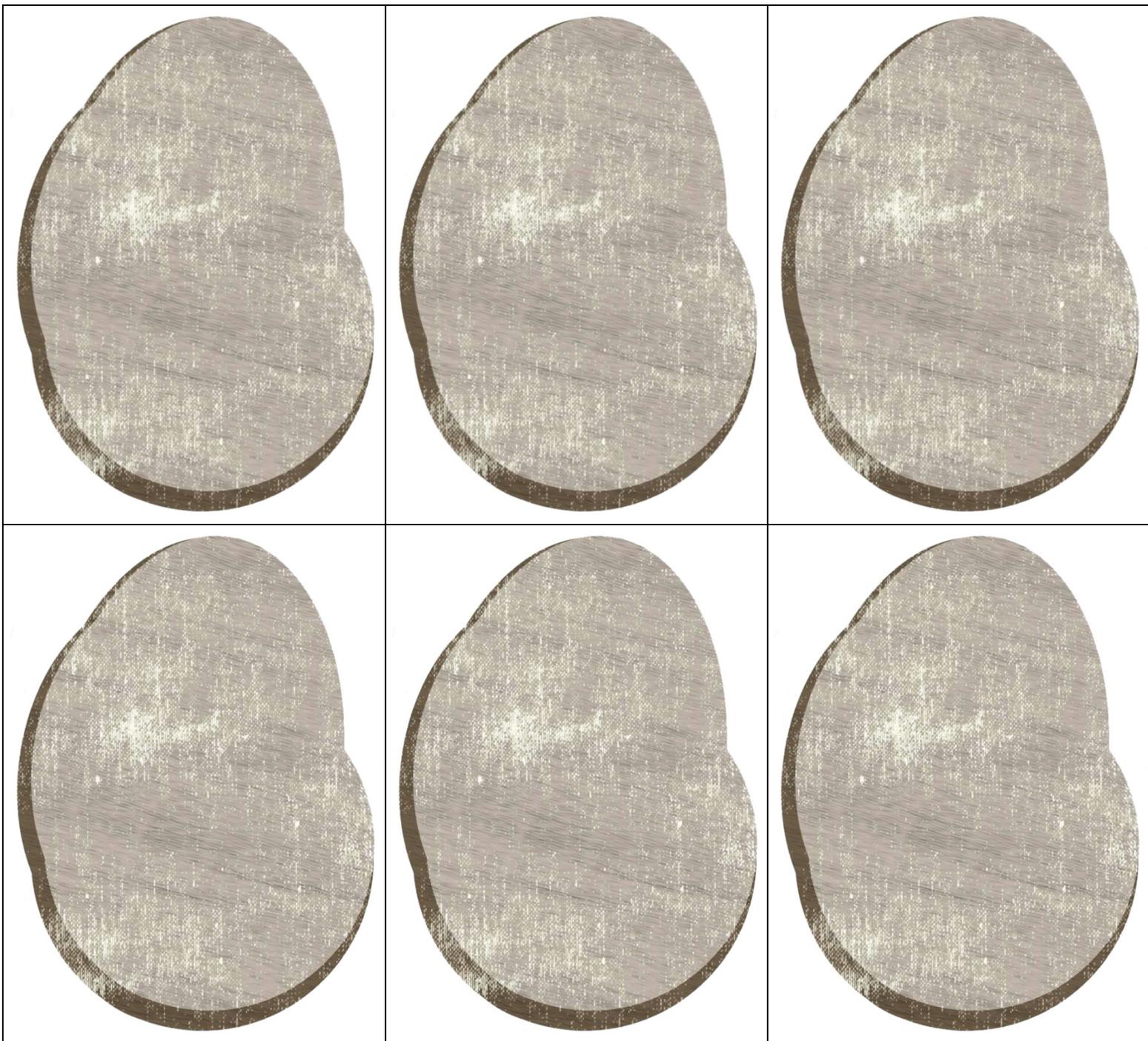


#### Facebook

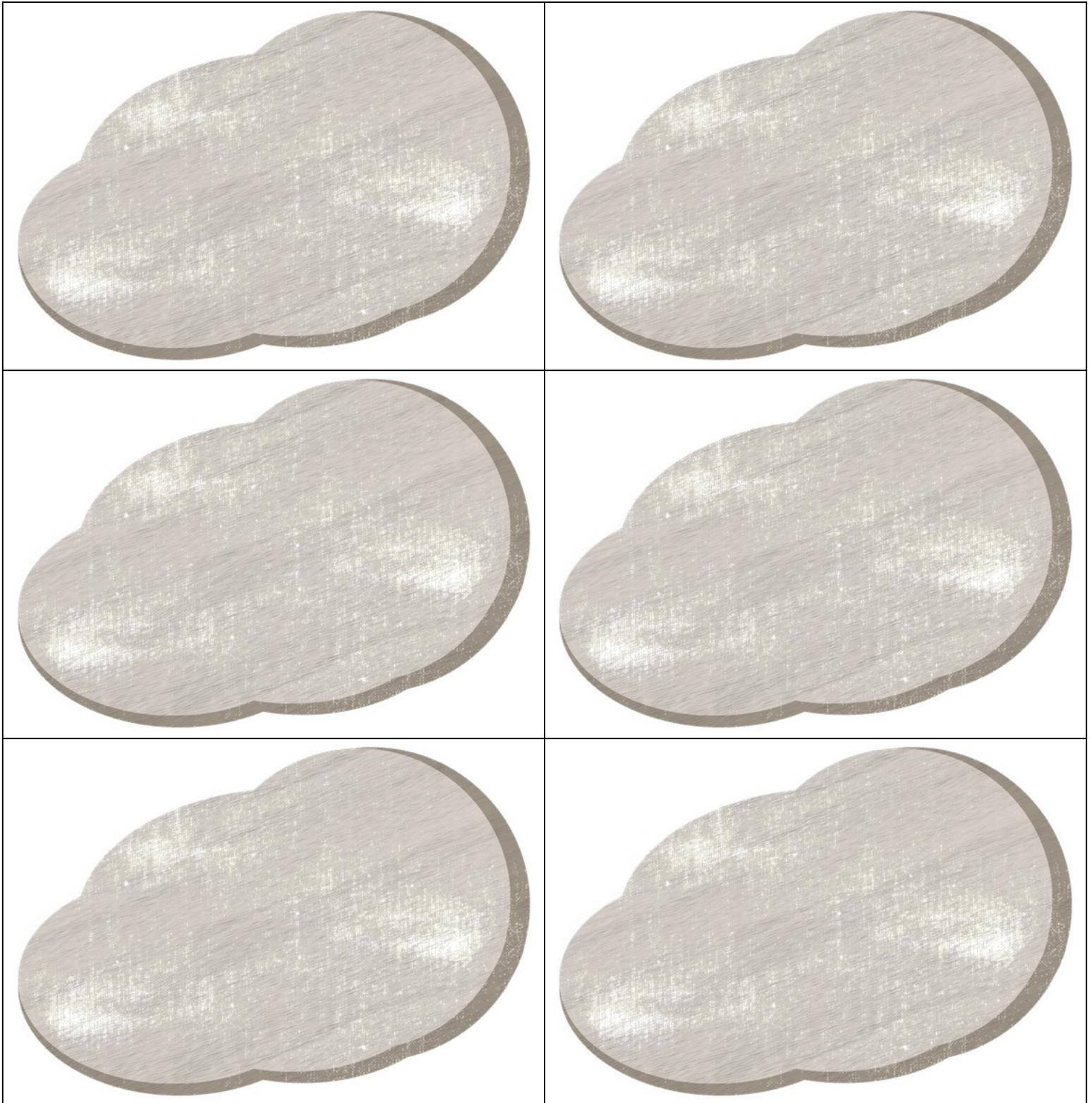
[Facebook.com/BoysTownTraining](https://www.facebook.com/BoysTownTraining)



***#MyTeacherRocks* Paper Rock Cutouts**



***#MyTeacherRocks* Paper Rock Cutouts**



**#MyTeacherRocks Tag Printouts**

<p><b>YOU "ROCK" BECAUSE...</b></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p><i>#MyTeacherRocks</i></p> <p>provided by <a href="http://www.boystowntraining.org">www.boystowntraining.org</a></p>	<p><b>YOU "ROCK" BECAUSE...</b></p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <p><i>#MyTeacherRocks</i></p> <p>provided by <a href="http://www.boystowntraining.org">www.boystowntraining.org</a></p>
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CONSENT TO RELEASE PHOTO/IMAGE

Dear Parent/Guardian:

During the current school year, your child's image/photograph or work may be included in a classroom or school project that could be used in one of the following ways:

- As a demonstration project/activity in education workshops/classes/conferences
- As a sample project/activity on CD's created by **School/District Name** for use in education workshops or student classrooms
- Posted on the school or **District Name** web pages/social media sites on the Internet
- Submitted as samples to program publishers or as contest entries to sponsors
- Appear on videotape made during a student presentation of their project, or in broadcasts or videotapes demonstrating computer multimedia in general
- Videotaped to appear in a school-related program to be used by a local television station or school/county project
- Used in a printed publication such as a newspaper or magazine

While your child's name may accompany the photo, no last name or address will be included with your child's picture when publishing on the Web.

There is no monetary compensation for the use of the work, but it will help many teachers get more use out of their computers and show other students a good example of what can be. Please sign the release form below and return this sheet to your child's school. Your permission grants us approval to publicize without prior notification and remains in effect until revoked. Thanks!

**Release Form**

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We **DO** give permission for \_\_\_\_\_'s image/photograph or work to be used as described above. We are willing to release this into the public domain and understand that no monetary compensation will be given for the use of the materials.

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We **DO NOT** give permission for \_\_\_\_\_'s image/photograph or work to be used as described above.

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to your child's teacher by **Due Date**