



Comforting in Color

A Binky Patrol Comforting Covers for Kids Event Guide

What Is Comforting in Color?

Comforting in Color is a community event where participants of all ages and abilities decorate fabric squares with Sharpie markers - a heart, a rainbow, a happy doodle, a few words of encouragement - and Binky Patrol volunteers sew those squares into finished blankets (binkies) for children in crisis.

No sewing skills needed. No artistic talent required. Anyone who can hold a marker can participate, from kindergartners to grandparents.

How Flexible Is It?

Very. This event scales to fit your space, your crowd, and your timeline.

Small event (classroom, team outing, neighborhood fair):

3 tables, 2 sewing machines, 5-75 participants

Mid-size event (school gym, community fair, company picnic):

6 tables in a horseshoe, 3-4 machines, 100-300 participants



Large event (full school, corporate campus, festival):

Up to 20 machines, 500+ participants, multiple horseshoe stations

The format works indoors or in a covered outdoor space. You will need access to electricity for the sewing machines - plan one power outlet or heavy-duty extension cord per machine.

Is a Binky Patrol Chapter Running This With You?

If there is a Binky Patrol chapter near you, they may be able to send volunteers to sew alongside your group. Reach out early - sewing volunteers with their own machines are the most valuable thing a chapter can contribute.

If no chapter is nearby, this guide gives you everything you need to run it yourself. You just need to recruit a few experienced sewers from your own community.

****Ready to start planning? Contact us first: [CONTACT LINK/EMAIL]****

We will talk through your event size, timeline, and supplies so nothing falls through the cracks.

What Binky Patrol Will Send You

When you register your event with us, we will send you:

- Binky Patrol brochures for participants to take home
- Labels for finished binkies
- Binky Patrol banner(s) - please return banners promptly after your event



Signage at your drawing tables is suggested. A simple sign explaining what participants are doing and where the finished binkies go makes a real difference. Example: "Decorate a square. It will be sewn into a blanket for a child in crisis. Draw something warm."*

What You Will Need

Fabric Supplies

- Pre-cut white or cream muslin squares, 8 inches x 8 inches - one per expected participant, plus 20% extra for busy events. BUT many times, especially at school events, some kids hang out and do several, while many don't want to draw any. Know your group. We suggest having way more squares than you need.
- Pre-cut printed fabric squares, same size - these alternate with the white squares when sewn together; plan for roughly equal quantities

Drawing Supplies

- Sharpie markers in multiple colors - at least one full set of 8-10 colors per drawing table; participants share them freely
- Plastic table covering or inexpensive plastic tablecloths, doubled - roll out over drawing tables to protect surfaces from marker bleed-through
- Blue painter's tape - to secure the plastic covering to the table (especially important outdoors on windy days) and to tape each fabric square flat while it is being drawn on

Sewing Supplies

- Sewing machines - one per experienced sewer; home machines work perfectly



- Heavy-duty extension cords or power strips - one per machine; test them before the event
- Thread in a coordinating color - [white or neutral works for most printed fabrics]
- Scissors - one pair per sewing station
- Seam ripper - at least one per sewing station

After the Event

- Iron - run over completed squares after the event to permanently set the Sharpie ink into the fabric; this is a quick step and should not be skipped

Prep Timeline

Four to Six Weeks Before

- Confirm your event date, location, and estimated attendance
- Contact Binky Patrol to register your event and request materials: Susan Finch, Founder, sfinch@binkypatrol.org, 503-214-8346
- Recruit experienced sewers - at least one per machine
- Confirm electricity access and extension cord reach at your venue

Two Weeks Before

- Order or cut your fabric squares; store flat
- Gather your Sharpie supply - buy more than you think you need



- Pick up painter's tape and plastic table covering or tablecloths

One Week Before

- Organize supplies into labeled bins: one per drawing table (tape, Sharpies), one per sewing table (thread, scissors, seam ripper)
- Walk your venue and map your table layout (see Setup below)
- Confirm electrical outlet locations and test extension cord reach

Day Before

- Set up tables if the venue allows early access
- Roll out and tape down plastic covering on all drawing tables
- Thread machines and test-sew a few squares
- Pre-load each drawing table with blank white squares, taped flat and ready

Day-of Setup

Table Configuration

Arrange tables in a horseshoe (U-shape) with sewing tables at the base and drawing tables along the two sides. This keeps the workflow visible - participants can watch their squares move from drawing table to sewing table - and creates a natural traffic flow in and out.

For larger events, set up multiple horseshoe stations with at least 6 feet between them so participants and volunteers can move freely.



Drawing Table Setup

1. Roll plastic table covering or a doubled plastic tablecloth over the full length of the table. Tape all edges down - front, back, and ends. Outside on a windy day, tape every edge and weigh down the corners.
2. Lay white fabric squares on the plastic, spaced so participants have elbow room - typically 4 to 6 squares per table.
3. Tape each square down on all four sides so it lies flat while being drawn on.
4. Scatter Sharpies across the table in multiple colors.
5. Keep a stack of blank white squares nearby for quick reloading.
6. Post your table sign where someone walking up can read it easily.

Sewing Table(s) Setup

1. Position the sewing machine with at least 18 inches of clearance on the left for fabric to feed through freely.
2. Keep a small collection area to the right of each machine for completed sewn sections.
3. Place scissors and seam ripper within arm's reach of the sewer.
4. Stack printed fabric squares near the machine - these alternate with decorated white squares as the binky top is assembled.



Running the Event

The Flow

Participants walk up to a drawing table, pick up a Sharpie, and decorate a white square. When they finish, the table host removes the tape, sets the completed square aside, and immediately tapes down a fresh blank square. Completed decorated squares travel to the sewing tables, where sewers alternate them with printed fabric squares and sew the rows together into a binky top.

At a well-run mid-size event, expect to move through 60-100 squares per hour.

Table Host Responsibilities

Table hosts do not need to sew. They need to:

- Welcome participants and explain the activity in one or two sentences
- Keep every drawing spot loaded - there should never be an empty spot on the table
- Collect completed squares and deliver them to the sewing station regularly
- Keep Sharpies spread out and visible; check those caps - kids usually leave them loose.
- Encourage hesitant participants - "Anything goes, even just your name and a heart. "These are for kids who are sad, sick, or scared." Keep it simple. Kids get it!

Sewer Responsibilities

Sewers keep production moving. They:

- Alternate decorated white squares with printed fabric squares when assembling rows - no pinning needed, just sew



- Join rows together to build out the binky top
- Communicate with table hosts when the supply of completed squares is running low or piling up faster than they can sew

After the Event

- Iron all completed and loose squares to permanently set the Sharpie ink - do not skip this step
- Send completed sewn tops and remaining loose decorated squares back to Binky Patrol; nothing is wasted and every square will be used. You can ship to national, drop to local chapter, or if you are super ambitious, complete them and deliver them locally!
- Share event photos with Binky Patrol and tag us at @binkypatrol
- Return Binky Patrol banners promptly after the event

We will follow up to let you know how many binkies were completed and where they were distributed.

Let's Talk About Your Event Idea

Every Comforting in Color event is a little different, and we want yours to go smoothly. Reach out before you finalize your plan. We will help you estimate supply quantities, connect you with a nearby chapter if one exists, and answer any questions this guide did not cover.

Contact us: sfinch@binkypatrol.org, 503-214-8346

Binky Patrol Comforting Covers for Kids
Make blankets. Make friends. Make a difference.
Celebrating 30 years! <https://binkypatrol.org>