

Halloween Headquarters

Clever Wheelchair Costumes

Safety First

Be sure whatever you attach to the wheelchair can be easily removed. Use nontoxic paints and don't attach sharp objects or things that a child may take off and put in their mouth. Finally, be sure that what you make can fit through a standard door.

Aladdin

This costume shows a use for lap trays as the flying carpet with stuffed legs rests on top of the tray. To support the rug, glue it to two pieces of cardboard, then cut the cardboard pieces to the size of the carpet with an opening cut out around the waist. Cut a slit through all layers of carpet and cardboard to make flaps that can be bent up to allow the carpet to easily slide off.



To make the legs, stuff sweat pants with fiberfill. Sew or glue the patch and sash to pants. Position the stuffed legs folded on the carpet and glue in place. You can add other Aladdin objects as you want.

King or Queen

Start with heavy duty cardboard cut to the desired shape for the back. You may need to cut around the neck rest hardware on the back of the chair. Glue gun polyester fiberfill to the cardboard. To give that regal look, glue gun plastic jewels to the front. Cover a smaller piece of cardboard with the fabric and glue it to the back of the throne to cover unfinished edges. To finish things off, shape a piece of cardboard to fit over the armrests and cover it with fiberfill and material.

This costume is one that can be used for boys or girls by purchasing a king or queen costume. To hide trunk straps, cut slits in the back of the costume and feed them through.



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Flower Garden

Make an outline of the wheelchair tray on plywood or cardboard. Cut it out and lay a piece of artificial grass on top, securing it with hot glue or Velcro & staples. Use fence pickets 2" x 9", and attached them to the outside of the artificial grass. Next place rails in between the pickets and attach them with staples. Dress in an all green sweat suit and create flower pedals out of foam or construction paper. Attach your pedals to the top of a hooded sweatshirt or a headband and paint cheeks a rosy red color. Go the extra mile by creating a butterfly out of foam or construction paper to be placed on a fence picket, and adding a flower stem to be inserted to the artificial grass.



Cinderella

Become the belle of the ball by transforming a wheelchair into Cinderella's carriage. Use foam board, paint, tape and a few glued-on accent jewels. Wear a baby blue dress with a silvery sparkle and hold or attach a "glass slipper".

Race Car

Drivers beware! Create a race car by cutting foam board or cardboard and attaching it around the chair. Make sure to keep the chair narrow enough to fit through doorways. Paint the car with flames or racing stripes and give it your favorite number. Add a bicycle horn, goggles, and driving gloves to get the full effect.

Thank you Bridge School for allowing Goodwill Industries of Northern New England to promote your costume ideas for wheelchairs.

For more information about Bridge School visit www.bridgeschool.org