

## Make a Flapper Headpiece for the Speakeasy Activity

It was 1916. Prohibition had just started in Colorado, four years earlier than in the US, when the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution was ratified. Those in favor of Prohibition—the teetotalers—believed banning alcohol would lead to less crime, improved health, and stronger families and communities. Prohibition, however, led to more drinking and lawlessness caused by drinking than when alcohol was legal.

Many turned to speakeasies during Prohibition to drink “underground.” These illegal saloons featured music, dancing, and of course booze, and often had secret passwords that customers had to give to enter to keep out law enforcement.

Prior to Prohibition, women in the US rarely drank in public with men, but many women enjoyed the liberation of speakeasies and visited them regularly. This behavior was part of the flapper trend after World War I through the “Roaring Twenties,” in which middle-class women began to flaunt traditional female roles and restrictions in favor of a more progressive, liberated lifestyle. This included more provocative dress, short hair (bobs were the high fashion of the day), and sometimes outlandish hats and headaddresses.

Try your hand at making a flapper headpiece to wear at the Speakeasy Night! If you need some ideas, the photos below give examples of real headpieces from 1920s.

How to make a flapper headpiece:

- Take a strip of cloth/ribbon and measure it around your head to fit snugly through a night of dancing! Cut excess material and staple, glue, or tie the ends together.
- Decorate the band however you wish, using the feathers, sequins, flowers, etc. Use staples/glue/fasteners to attach the decorations.



## Make a Flapper Headpiece for the Speakeasy Supply List & Larger Event

This is a really flexible activity; you can use a wide range of inexpensive craft supplies, such as:

- Ribbon, strips of cloth, strips of elastic cloth, and/or plain plastic headbands for the base
- To decorate the headpieces: feathers, sequins, flowers (real, paper or plastic), glitter glue, ribbon, etc
- Staplers, hot glue gun, fabric glue, brads, etc. to construct the headpieces

For many more photos of real flapper headpieces, see <http://pinterest.com/sakuraharu/1920s-hats-evening/>.

For the speakeasy night, here are some ideas:

- Have guests register ahead of time and give them a secret password. Have someone stationed at the library door and have guests tell that person the password in order to be allowed inside.
- Play period jazz and other music, like Al Jolson, Duke Ellington, Irving Berlin, and Fanny Brice. Stream it from the [1920s Radio Network](#).
- Invite a local dance group to demonstrate (or give lessons on) the Charleston or Lindy Hop, popular dances of the '20s. Or, learn a few easy steps yourselves and lead the evening dancing.
- Print out the 1920s list of slang terms [found here online](#) for your guests to use throughout the event.
- Have movies about the 1920s playing, such as The Untouchables, Chicago, and The Artist. Or, play silent movies made in the 1920s.
- Serve [faux bathtub gin](#) and cocktails.
- Offer long strings of fake pearls or feather boas for the women to wear and pocket squares for the men to wear in their jacket pockets.
- Have a contest for the most authentic 1920s outfit.