DIY SPY BIRTHDAY PARTY AT HOME!

Your child…ahem...“recruit” has been selected for a very important and highly classified birthday mission. A mole has hidden their birthday surprise somewhere in your house. Can they find and decipher intel to find their surprise before time runs out?

Top Secret Birthday Activities- At a Glance

- **Welcome to Headquarters**
  What’s your agent and spy ring codenames?

- **Disguise Challenge**
  Can you change your appearance so no one in your family can recognize you?

- **Keep Your Cover**
  Create a passport with your cover (fake) identity. Add a photo of yourself in disguise. Will Border Patrol blow your cover or can you keep your cool?

- **Mind Memory**
  Do you have the powers of observation and memory necessary to be a top agent?

- **Top Secret Birthday Mission**
  There’s a mole in the operation! Can you decode secret messages hidden in the operational zone by the mole and uncover their plans? (This is a birthday scavenger hunt!)

Operational Planning for your Top Secret Birthday

Please complete the following steps prior to your Top Secret Birthday.

**Welcome to Headquarters**

Make your HQ sign (included pdf) and designate your Base of Operations (AKA your kitchen table or living room sofa)

You will need:

- Pens or markers
- Scrap paper or index cards

**Headquarter Materials**

On the following pages you can print a:

Spy HQ sign

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S.P.Y AGENCY

MISSION

HEADQUARTERS
Disguise Challenge
Create a disguise kit by collecting the following items:
- hats (baseball, straw, wool, any and all will do)
- sunglasses and regular glasses
- wigs, clip on hair extensions, hairbands
- reversible clothing
- scarves
- black eyeliner (to make moles and aging lines)
- temporary tattoos
- mustaches or facial hair (order online or see template link below)
- pennies or small rocks (to change your walk)
- instant camera or smartphone and printer (optional)

Optional Disguise Materials
On the following pages you can print a:
Mustache Template
Disguise Checklist
DISGUISE: MUSTACHE TEMPLATE

- Print this page.
- Decorate your favorite mustache or two.
- Prepare tape for the back of your mustache.

You are now ready to get into disguise!
DISGUISE CHECKLIST

QUICK TIPS FOR GETTING INTO DISGUISE

Walk Differently
- Try slowing down
- Put a pebble in your shoe
- Take longer strides.

Change Your Expression
- Squint your eyes
- Tighten your lips
- Furrow your brow

Alter Your Look
- Do you have sunglasses? Put them on.
- Do you have a raincoat? Take it off.
- Do you have a hat? Put it on.

Blend In
- Are you wearing bright colors? Bad idea! They make you stand out.
- Avoid things that others will notice.

ASK YOURSELF:
- Will my own parent, sibling, friend recognize me?
- Have I practiced a new walk and new mannerisms that match my new look?
- Will my disguise get in the way of the mission or will it support the mission?
Keep Your Cover
You need to:
- Download and print the SPY passport (included pdf)
- Fold or cut it to size
- Gather pens or markers
- Print the Border Patrol Sign (included pdf) and set up a Border Patrol Station in a different part of your house away from your Base of Operations
- Optional- After getting into disguise, you may want to take a picture of your recruit(s) to tape to their passport

Keep Your Cover Materials
On the following pages you can print a:
SPY passport
Border Patrol sign
S.P.Y
BORDER PATROL
PASSPORT
CHECKPOINT
PLEASE HAVE YOUR PASSPORTS OPEN AND PREPARE FOR INTERROGATION.
Mind Memory
You will need:
- A briefcase or shallow box with lid
  - If you don’t have a lid, use a kitchen towel or small blanket to cover the box
- 10-15 random small items around your house (suggestions: tea bag, magic marker, small toy/figurine, pencil, post-it note with word or number combination on it, rubber ball, etc.)

Steps:
- Place all items in the box so they can all be viewed
- Make a list of all the items - include as much detail as possible, i.e.: yellow highlighter with brand name, flavor of tea bag, color of figurine, word written on post-it note, etc.
  - You will use this list to check your recruit(s) answers
- Close or cover the box

Mind Memory Example:

Example List—
- Green Marker with words green, verde, vert and arrow pointing upper right
- White piece of paper with panda sticker-3 pandas, different sizes holding yellow ribbon
- Purple and pink goggles- Speedo written in white letters on the right
- Ceramic tile with blue, yellow, green and white flower pattern
- Quarter- Tails up with black spot
- Black ninja toy
- White earphones
- Silver Hohner harmonica
- 5 Yuan banknote
- Hedgehog toy
- Metro card in plastic case
Top Secret Birthday Mission

You will need:

- Scissors
- Tape
- Paper
- brad (for cipher wheel)
- markers, colored pencils, crayons, or pens
- Speaking in Code sheet - includes a cipher wheel and pig pen cipher (included pdf)
- Recruit Top Secret Mission Memo (included pdf)
- Envelope marked Top Secret

Steps:

- Print the Speaking in Code sheet
- Select a hiding place for your birthday surprise (cupcakes, cake, present(s), cards, etc.)
- Create 4-5 secret messages using the cipher wheel/pig pen and hide them (Example below)
  - Write your 1st secret message on the Recruit Top Secret Mission Memo - This will direct your recruit(s) to the 1st hidden message
- Place Recruit Top Secret Mission Memo in an envelope marked Top Secret

Top Secret Birthday Materials

On the following pages you can print a:

Speaking in Code sheet
Recruit Top Secret Mission Memo
As long as there have been secrets there have been codes—they are a spy's best friend or worst enemy. Do you have what it takes to become a code master? Try your hand at cracking this top secret message:

There are 3 code/cipher systems used in this message. The tools you will need begin at the bottom of this sheet. The methods are:

- **Cipher Wheel:** each letter of the alphabet is substituted with another letter.
- **Pig-Pen Cipher:** each letter of the alphabet is substituted with a graphic representation or a symbol.
- **Navajo Code:** The Navajo Code-Talkers used the Navajo language during WWII to translate military terms into this almost unknown Native American language.

*Before starting, cut this message out and turn this sheet over so you can use your tools while looking at the message.*

**YOUR TOOLS:**

**Navajo Code-Talker Key:**
The translation is not word for word so this code is a form of double-encryption.

- **A-YE-SHI** (Eggs) = Fighter Plane
- **DAH-HE-TI-HI** (Hummingbird) = Observation Plane
- **DEBEH-LI-ZINE** (Black Street) = Bombs
- **NE-AS-JAH** (Owl) = Submarine
- **BESH-LO** (Iron Fish) = Squad

To find out about KidSpy® and other programs at the International Spy Museum visit www.spymuseum.org

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How to make and use your cipher wheel:

1. Carefully cut out both disks.
2. Place the smaller disk on top of the larger disk.
3. Use a paper fastener (brad) to attach the inner disk to the outer disk. Push it through the middle of both disks and then bend out the tabs underneath the disks.
4. You are now ready to decipher the message. Just use the key A=X and crack the code.

**PIG-PEN CIPHER KEY**

Simple shapes and dots create symbols that correspond to each letter of the alphabet. The letter placed in each cell takes that cell’s shape so for example:

> E • A  V O L F O < = TOP SECRET
TOP SECRET MEMORANDUM

TO:  RECRUITS
FROM: HEADQUARTERS
RE:  TOP SECRET BIRTHDAY MISSION

You have been recruited for a very important and highly classified mission. We have collected intelligence that indicates we have a mole in our operation! We’re not sure who the mole is or what their intentions are. The mole has left secret messages around the operational zone. Can you use your spy skills to figure out their plans? Remember trust no one and all is not what it seems!

Message for your eyes only:
Top Secret Birthday Mission Example:

Message 1: Written on Recruit Top Secret Mission Memo

TO: RECRUITS
FROM: HEADQUARTERS
RE: TOP SECRET BIRTHDAY MISSION

You have been recruited for a very important and highly classified mission. We have collected intelligence that indicates we have a mole in our operation! We’re not sure who the mole is or what their intentions are. The mole has left secret messages around the operational zone. Can you use your spy skills to figure out their plans? Remember trust no one and all is not what it seems!

Message for your eyes only:

A=X

DKUTGVJ DVQ

Cipher wheel key - A=X
Answer - Under Couch

Message 2: Hidden in under the couch

Pig Pen Cipher
Answer - By fruit bowl
Message 3: Hidden by the fruit bowl

Cipher wheel key - A=F

Answer - Guest closet

Birthday Surprise: Hidden in the guest closet
Top Secret Birthday Activities

Test your recruit(s) tradecraft skills by completing the following activities during the Top Secret Birthday.

Welcome to Headquarters

Agent Codename
- Select an Agent codename.
  - Stuck? Choose your favorite food (Agent Bacon Pizza), animal (Agent Sparkle Unicorn), TV or Book Character (Agent Harry Potter).
- Think of 3 of your best spy skills- Being sneaky, fitting into small spaces, decoding secret messages, etc.

Can You Remember?
- Stand in a circle.
- Have the birthday agent introduce themselves- Hi, I’m Agent Sassafras and my spy skill is having ninja moves.
- Next agent introduces themselves and the birthday child- Hi, I’m Agent Crafty and my spy skill is building spy gadgets. This is Agent Sassafras; her spy skill is having ninja moves.
- Keep repeating until everyone has gone one time.
- Optional- You can keep playing by adding more spy skills to remember- Hi, I’m Agent Sassafras and my spy skills are having ninja moves and working with codes.

Disguise Challenge
- Write down a list of disguise challenges. Example- Old person, Baby, Pop star, etc.
- Select 1 agent to shout out the disguise challenges. Example- Baby.
- Everyone else must change their disguise as fast as they can to match the category.
- Optional- Make this more competitive by using a timer and/or voting on the agent who did the best job matching the disguise challenge.

Keep Your Cover
- Develop new name, occupation, dates of birth and country of origin and fill out passport(s).
- Memorize the information.
- Optional- Glue or tape headshot of recruit(s) in disguise.
- Proceed to the Border Patrol Station.
- Designate someone to play the role of Border Patrol Officer.
  - They will:
    - Ask/say “passport please.”
- Look over the passport and ask for name, date of birth, occupation, where from
- Throw a curveball question in like “Did you rent a car?” “What languages do you speak?” “What are your hobbies?”

**Mind Memory**
- Challenge recruit(s) to memorize in great detail what they are about to see.
- Set a timer to 10-20 seconds.
- Reveal the contents of the box.
- Cover it up again.
- Have recruit(s) list as many items as they can remember in as much detail.
- Check your list and wait to see if they can remember more.
  - Ask for details “What color and/or brand was the marker?” “Was the toy bigger or smaller than the post-it note?”
- Reveal the contents so they can see what they might have missed.
- Optional- Increase the challenge with more and different items for a second round.

**Top Secret Birthday Mission**
- Make the cipher wheel and the pig pen cipher codes with your recruit(s). Practice using both codes by solving the messages on the Speaking in Code sheet.
- Hand the top secret envelope to your recruit(s) after practicing using the cipher wheel and pig pen.
- Optional- Can your recruit complete their mission when the clock’s counting down?! Use a stopwatch or timer app to time how fast they can crack their coded messages.

**Blow Your Cover**

We would love to see your Top Secret Birthday celebrations! Photos can be tagged @spymuseum.

[Social media links]

Looking for more family activities? Visit spymuseum.org