



BPCG ARTIST GUIDELINES FOR POLYMER CLAY BEADS

The Beads of Courage Programme depends upon two types of beads:

1. Program Beads. These are the vast majority of beads that we use in the program. These beads are commercially manufactured due largely to the sheer numbers involved. These beads are the ones that you may have seen on bead guides that correspond to specific events in treatment. We don't ask artists to make programme beads.

2. Act of Courage Beads. These are the artist-made beads that are given to acknowledge the milestones in their treatment journey. This year, we expect that we will need approximately 100,000 of these handmade beads donated so that children can continue to receive one-of-a-kind beads for significant treatment milestones. These beads truly bring the arts to our arts-in-medicine mission. Thank you!

What is an Act of Courage Bead?

Act of Courage beads can take almost any form that you would like to make – it's an opportunity for you let your imagination go and make new things or whatever you want to do.

Special Requirements for Act of Courage Beads:

- A 2.5mm (3/32in) hole is preferred but other sizes are also useable.
- When you make beads for us, please be sure to make child-friendly beads. Sharp edges on the bead can hurt fingers, so beads with sharp edges can't be sent out. Overly frilly bits sticking out might break off and leave sharp edges on the surface, so please be sure that raised areas have solid connections and that surface decorations are robust enough to take some knocking about.
- We also ask that you refrain from using any inclusions, surface treatments or findings that contain heavy metals. We can't send these beads out to the kids.
- Please ensure that your beads are properly cured to be sure that they don't crack or break. Cracked beads have to be binned. BPCG recommend curing for an hour at the manufacturers recommended temperature.
- Before you ship, please make sure that the bead hole is cleaned out thoroughly if drilled after curing. Beads with any loose clay still inside take more time for our limited staff to clean and this seriously slows down our turnaround time.

- When you send your beads please include a brief inventory in the package along with your contact information. We want to send you a Thank You certificate and a receipt for your donation. If you send beads from multiple donors in one box just include the same information for everyone so that they can all be recognized.
- Check with your BPCG branch leader or committee if you are unsure about how to make your beads.
- **Ideally, bring your beads to the Anniversary Celebrations.** If you are unable to attend, please donate to your local BPCG branch meeting so they can take photos for their records and send all the beads together to Beads of Courage UK, or post to the address below.
- Please share photos of your beads with us on our [Facebook pages](#) or send images to britishpcguild@gmail.com
- For details of your nearest British Polymer Clay Guild branch, please visit www.bpcg.org.uk

Following these requirements will help us get the beads out to the kids quickly and get your acknowledgments and receipts back to you in a timely fashion. All donated beads are inspected and sorted by our staff and making sure that your beads meet our needs really helps things move along. Quality is far more important than quantity.

Bead donations to be sent to

Beads of Courage UK c/o Diane Watt, 14, Radlow Crescent, Marston Green, Birmingham B37 7LZ

Bead Delivery to Hospitals

None of our member hospitals are set up for direct donation. All beads distributed in our programme are our responsibility so we need to see every Act of Courage bead before it goes out. Please remember to send all of your donated beads to the Beads of Courage UK Headquarters for distribution. You can request that donations go to your nearest member hospital if you like, but remember that there are a lot of kids that need your beads who aren't near beadmakers and they would love to have your beads too. Please keep in mind, when possible you will be personally invited to special Beads of Courage events at member hospitals where you can deliver Dream Beads in person. We look forward to having more of these events in the future!



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Beads of Courage UK mailing address is:

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