Do you have a secret tree fort?

Does it have a rope ladder, a trapdoor, or a walkie-talkie? What about a magnifying glass for looking at bugs and other cool things? Perhaps it has a secret tunnel for playing board games with whales. Maybe it’s made entirely of candy.

This activity kit provides all the tools you’ll need for designing and building the ultimate hangout. Invite friends, siblings, monsters, and pirates to the best secret tree fort you can dream of. And don’t forget to bring the snacks!
Thinking about all aspects of your secret tree fort is essential. Not only do you have to design the fort, but you also have to think about what to put inside in order to have the best, coolest, most amazing hideaway ever!

Use this sheet to list ten things you would have in your secret tree fort.

1. _______________________________________
2. _______________________________________
3. _______________________________________
4. _______________________________________
5. _______________________________________
6. _______________________________________
7. _______________________________________
8. _______________________________________
9. _______________________________________
10. ______________________________________
Even if your secret tree fort is hidden away in a super-secret tree, sometimes you might need to call others for backup against uninvited guests or grumpy monsters who want to eat your snacks. The fastest, easiest way to communicate is through flags posted outside your fort.

Follow the directions to make flags for your secret tree fort for whatever occasion arises.

**WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**
markers, colored pencils, or crayons; paper; clear tape; a dowel rod or anything long enough to attach your flag for display

**DIRECTIONS:**

1. **Decide what you want your flag to communicate!** Do you need one to welcome visitors, or one to let visitors know that you’re out and they should come back later? How about one for when you’re under attack by water balloons, or one to say that you’re on the lookout for pirates?

2. **Design and draw your flag!** Once you know what your flag will be for, then you can design it to reflect its purpose. If you want a welcoming flag, you could draw a smiley face. If you want to keep out marauding pirates, a stop sign would be a good symbol.

3. **Color it!** Making your flag bright is important — if you need help or are running low on chocolate to fill your secret compartment, a bold flag will be easy to see from far away.

4. **Construct!** Using tape, attach the piece of paper to the dowel or stick you plan to use.

5. **Hang it up!** Put your flag in an area that everyone can see.

6. **Do it again!** You can have flags for multiple purposes, so don’t be afraid to make more flags for all the things your secret tree fort may need to communicate.
This Secret Tree Fort Belongs To

_____________________________
(your name)

Only ___________ Allowed!
USE THIS PAGE TO DESIGN YOUR OWN SECRET TREE FORT.