

Wee Care Program and Wee Care Gown Guidelines

Our guild participates in the Wee Care Service Project begun by SAGA back in 1986. It is the brain child of Nancy Newell and Chris Owings of the Rose Trellis Smockers Chapter in Portland, Oregon. Each member of our guild is asked to make **two** gowns per year.

This tiny gown is making a special memory for a bereaved family. Most likely, this is the only garment this little baby will have and we strive to do our best work when creating this garment. This tiny gown is the perfect place to apply new techniques presented at meetings or workshops. Some examples are new embroidery stitches, fine machine sewing techniques, new smocking stitches. Always keeping in mind whether you are making this gown for a boy or a girl, since the gowns we make are different for girls and boys.

There is a great need for Wee Care gowns in our area. As a chapter, we are trying to help with this need by donating to some of these organizations. Each organization can use anywhere from about 12 -20 gowns per year which equates to a yearly amount of 60-100 gowns and buntings.

Be Not Afraid – a Catholic Organization- ***prefers white gowns with pink, blue, or neutral smocking***

Camp LeJuene

Novant Health Huntersville

Lake Norman Regional Mooresville

Iredell Memorial in Statesville

Caleb Ministries supports the Charlotte hospitals.

Checking in/ checking out kits:

Upon arriving at our meeting, please stop at the Wee Care table to check in your gown and request another kit.

There is a requested \$5 donation for the first kit. When you bring that gown back completed, you will receive another kit with no cost.

Here is a chart of sizes at different gestational weeks.

Weeks	Weight	Length	Head Circumference
22	15 ounces		4.7"
23-27	1-2 lbs	11.8" - 14"	6" – 10"
28-29	2-3 lbs	14" - 15"	10" – 11"
30-33	3-4 lbs	16"-18"	11.1"-12.1"
34	4.5 lbs	18.5"	12.3"
35-37	5-6 lbs	19"-20"	12.7"-13.1"
39-40	7 -8 lbs	21"-23"	13.4" – 13.6"

Wee Care Gown Kits

Our guild creates two types of kits for members. One kit has the sleeves sewn and the gown pleated. It comes with snaps and a bias strip**for the neckband, a gown information card, and a *Stitched with Love Card*. Some members prefer to construct their gown from scratch and we also provide kits with fabric and snaps. The pattern for this bishop dress can be found on SAGA's website http://www.smocking.org/weecare_program.php. It is Wee Care Pattern #1.

Please use the measurements below, not the measurements for program #1.

****Please note:** The bias strip is wider and longer than you need. Please trim to desired width in regards to single or double fold preference. Please trim the length to achieve the finished length as stated in the pattern instructions.

Diapers: If your kit includes a pair of diapers, please choose embroidery floss that will coordinate with the diapers.

Matching booties, hats and quilts are welcome but our guild only provides material for the gowns.

Smocking designs: Pleating with half space rows is best. Smocking designs with 5 or less half space rows work best.

If you are receiving a kit, you are asked to make a gown for a specific gender. Below is a chart to consider what you might use in constructing this gown.

	Girl	Boy	Gender Neutral
Lace	Yes	No	No
Floss color ideas (these are not exclusive)	Pinks, lavenders,	Blues, greens	Grey, yellow, beige, white, ecru
Embellishment	Flowers- lazy daisy, bullion rose etc Shadow embroidery	Feather stitch, chain stitch, running stitch, Satin stitch, dot, Shadow embroidery, applique	Feather stitch, chain stitch, running stitch, Satin stitch, dot,
Smocking Pattern	any	Geometric pattern- no flowers	Geometric pattern- no flowers
Embellishments to sleeves	Smocking* Contrast band to sleeve, madeira hem with or without scallop, decorative stitches, lace etc. (no contrast bands for Be Not Afraid)	No smocking. Pleated sleeve*, contrast band to sleeve, madeira hem (no scallop) (no contrast bands for Be Not Afraid)	Contrast band to sleeve, madeira hem (no scallop) (no contrast bands for Be Not Afraid)

*Pleated sleeve directions will be included in your kit!

If you are using your own fabric, please use soft colors such as light pink, light blue, light green. Please refrain from using yellow and peach as many of the babies have jaundice skin and these colors do not look good on them.

*Smocked Sleeves: If you are making a sleeve with a smocked edge, please make the sleeve loose enough for them to easily place on the baby. Use the chart below as a guide. These babies are fragile.

Gown Size	Finished Sleeve Width after seaming
Newborn (7 lbs.)	7"
Preemie (5-6 lbs.)	5 ¾ "
Small (3-4 lbs.)	5.5 "
Tiny (1-2 lbs.)	4.5"

This Chart contains dimensions for pleated sleeves for the boy gowns...there are directions for each size.

Size	Sleeve Length x width	Width of pleat	Sleeve width before underarm seam	Sleeve with after underarm seam
Newborn 7 lb	8.5" x 11"	3/4	6"	6.5
Preemie 5-6 lb	7" x 10"	5/8	6"	6.25
Small 3-4 Lb	6" x 9"	1/2	6"	5.75
Tiny 1-2 lb	5" x 8"	1/2	5"	4.75
Extra Tiny <1 lb	3.5" x 7"	1/2	4"	3.75

Double check your gown before turning it in:

- Make sure that all pencil or pen marks have been removed
- Check the scent of the gown (pet odors, smoke...)...when in doubt wash in Ivory or Dreft
- Hand lotion turns fabric dark over time. Wash hands before stitching or wash gown in Ivory or Dreft when finished.
- Remember to check your gown to make sure you have a closing at the top with two clear snaps or a ribbon.

- The finished neckline measurement is very important. Please be sure the finished closed neckline of your gown corresponds with the measurements below. Hems allowance is 2".

Size	Finished Neck	Finished Length
Newborn (7 pounds and up)	10"	20"
Preemie (5-6 pounds)	8 "	18"
Small (3-4 pounds)	7"	16"
Tiny (1-2 pounds)	6"	14"
Extra Tiny (less than one pound)	5"	10"

- Check seams and hems to make sure all raw edges are hidden.
- Information card: please complete the card in its entirety.
- "Stitched with love" card- **write only your first** name on the card.
- Place both the card and the Wee Care Tag in the plastic bag with the gown.

For those members who are donating gowns it is important that you include the following information in your bag:

- Place your clean, ironed gown in a clear plastic bag
- Include the following information in your bag:
 - Your Name:
 - Date turned in:
 - Size:
 - Color of gown and smocking:
 - Gender
- Be sure to ask the Wee Care chairman for a “Stitched with love card for you to sign”

Kit Cutting Measurements

	Weight	Weeks	Head Circumference	Long Dress with Side Seams Length x Width	Sleeve Size Length x Width	Quilt Size	Diapers	Hat
Newborn	7-8 lbs.	38-40	13.4"-13.6"	22" x 55"	8.5" x 11"	24x24		
Preemie	5-6 lbs.	35-37	12.7"-13.1"	20" x 45"	7" x 10"	22x22		
Small	3-4 lbs.	30-33	11.1" – 12"	18" x 37"	6" x 9"	18x18		
Tiny	1-2 lbs.	23-27	6"-10"	16" x 37"	5" x 8"	13x13	Teeny Tears – Larger diaper	3" Stockinette
Extra Tiny	15 oz. – 1 lb.	17-23	4.7"	12" x 29"	3.5" x 7" This is for pleated sleeve. Should turned up sleeve be the same??	11x11	Teeny Tears – smallest diaper	2" Stockinette