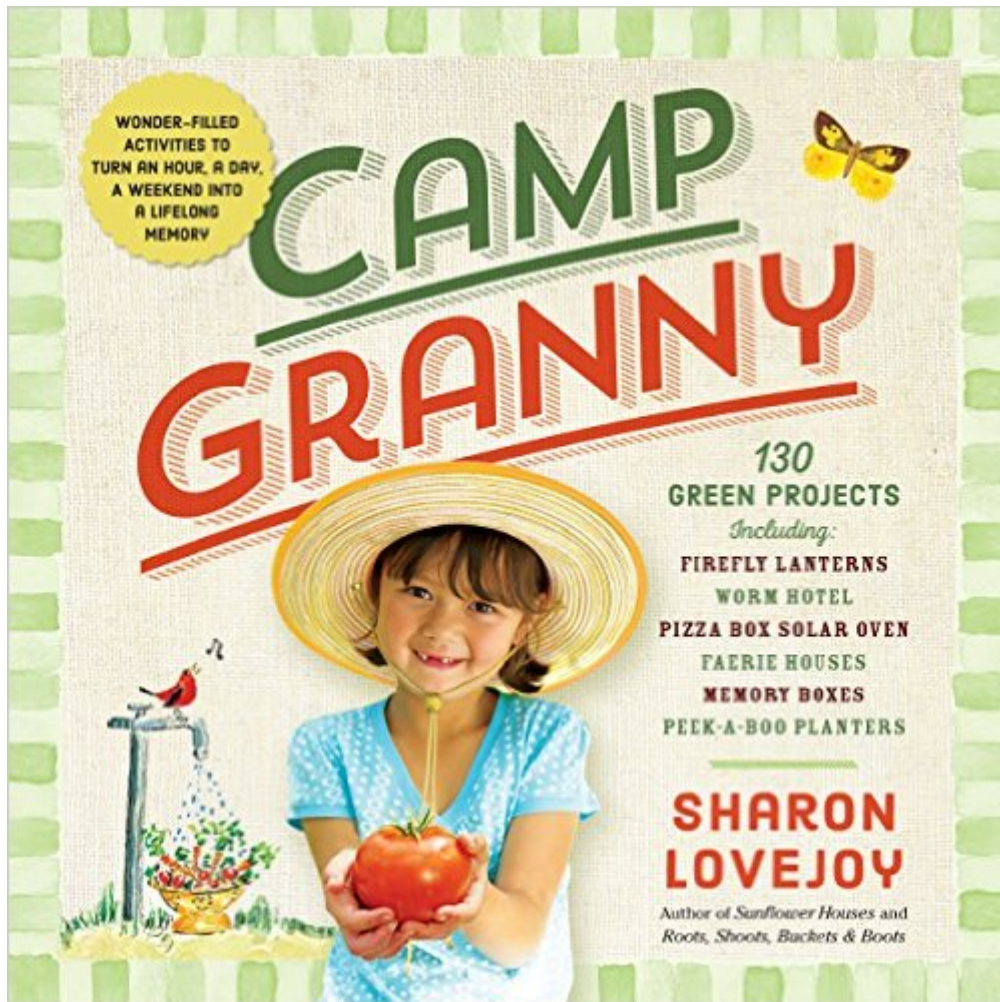


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# Camp Granny



## Synopsis

"For green grandparents everywhere and the young lives they touch." —RICHARD LOUV, AUTHOR OF LAST CHILD IN THE WOODS Make leaf rubbings, blow jumbo bubbles, bake Moon Pizzas, create a firefly lantern. More than an activity book, CAMP GRANNY is an interactivity book, filled with 130 projects that connect grandparents and grandchildren through nature— in the kitchen, the garden, and the art room. Illustrated with evocative photographs and the author's watercolors, CAMP GRANNY is a book about being adventurous, about being curious, about noticing and really seeing things— about instilling a lifelong sense of wonder. Please note: CAMP GRANNY was previously sold under the title Toad Cottages & Shooting Stars.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

If you're a grandma or a mom (or even a nature-loving, kid-daffy grandpa or dad), you're going to be delighted by Sharon Lovejoy's latest book, Toad Cottages & Shooting Stars. It is the ultimate Granny Handbook, designed especially for those of us who are lucky enough to have at least one small child to introduce to life in the kitchen, the backyard, and the garden. Sharon Lovejoy has always helped us to work with our kids in the garden, from her delightful Roots, Shoots, Buckets & Boots to Sunflower Houses; Hollyhock Days; and A Blessing of Toads. But Toad Cottages & Shooting Stars is special, because it is designed as a "manual" for grandmas, and Lovejoy has crammed it full of playful activities that even grannies without green thumbs can manage and kids will absolutely love. To whet your appetite, here is a short sampling from the six chapters: Faerie

Mailboxes, Firefly Lanterns, No-Bake Nests, Be a Pumpkin Parent, Potato Volcanoes, and Worm Hotel. Want more? How about these chapter titles? Preparing Camp Granny (lots of fine ideas, even if you're a long-distance granny). Or The Neighborhood Naturalist, Kids in the Kitchen, the Kitchen Garbage Garden (starts with an activity called "Learning from Leftovers"), Kids in the Garden, and Rainy Day Activities. Each chapter offers recipes (Moon Pizzas, anybody?), games, and activities--each one a learning opportunity for both granny and grandkid. And best of all, the book overflows with color photographs and Lovejoy's delightful drawings of bugs, plants, food toys, and faeries. Every page is a treasure. In her introduction, Lovejoy notes that being a grandmother is "one of the truest and purest joys" of her life, for her grandchildren have given her the gift of "child-sight": "the ability to stop, hunker down, and see things through their fresh, young eyes and minds." In *Toad Cottages & Shooting Stars*, Lovejoy shares that gift with her readers, through her playful art and the creative, imaginative activities she suggests. "Grandmotherhood is a state of grace," she says, a place of wonder and child-like delight. *Toad Cottages & Shooting Stars* will help you and your lucky grandchildren find that place and enjoy it--together. by Susan Wittig Albert for Story Circle Book Reviews reviewing books by, for, and about women

Sharon Lovejoy is my ideal grandmother. She spends time browsing craft stores and home centers for child-friendly materials. She readies her house for her grandchildren's visits by setting up "camp granny" - stocking rooms with dress-up clothes, children's books, and child-friendly activities. She maintains an active and creative line of communication with long-distance grandkids. And she relishes nature walks and garden experiments with little ones. If only more grandparents were like her... My own mother isn't and if yours is more couch-potato than amateur naturalist then this book won't change that. I'm giving my mom this book because I found it second-hand, asked her if she wanted it, and she replied casually "yes" without questioning what exactly what it was. I'm pretty sure that after I give it to her and she has had time to look it over in the privacy of her own home (if she even gets that far) she'll say "well, I'm not doing any of these activities because they're too much work" and proceed to use the TV as a babysitter if I leave my children in her care. Who should buy this book: Grandmothers or grandfathers (these activities really aren't gender-specific) looking for ways to enjoy time with their grandkids over the age of 5 (a 2-year-old who has to be watched like a hawk so she won't slice her hand open with pinking shears is a totally different animal than a 7-year-old who knows not to eat toadstools) in the garden and in the kitchen. It also helps if the grandparent in question is in good health, is free of mobility issues, and has a sizable garden (though many of the plant activities can be done indoors). Who should NOT buy this book: People

hoping to transform lazy, unimaginative, or infirm grandparents into elderly Mary Poppins. It takes time and effort to make a solar oven or gather materials for sprouting peanuts or creating a memory book with a child. I happen to think that time and effort would be well-spent, but most people unwilling to seek out a book like this for themselves probably wouldn't want to devote hours of planning to a fairy tea party activity. So please think long and hard before giving this book as a gift. I will admit that I'm keeping a copy of this book for myself. I have a 4-year-old and a 2-year-old and I really think my kids will enjoy many of these activities when they get a little older. The layout, pictures, and directions here are enticing and clear enough that we could simply use it as an all-purpose activity kit. Reading parts of this book have also led me to think about what kind of parent and what kind of grandparent I want to be. We all have times when we need a break from the exhausting job of caring for children; but as this book makes clear, our time with children is limited, they grow up so fast, and expending energy being fun and creative can only make for happy memories and a closer long-term relationship.

Bought a first copy of this book for myself, and my children's active grandmother fell in love! She found so many sweet and simple ideas that kept my 3-year-old son busy outdoors with her for her entire visit. The book is wonderfully written, with beautiful photos, highly appealing layout, so fun to browse through. It also helped me save the tomatoes I'd overly-ambitiously (with new baby at home, that is) started indoors :) Loving this publisher. Have just bought another copy for myself, and 2 more for gifts for friends.

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