



Kringle Workshops Spotlights Wooden Bobcat Skid Steer Toy for Summer Imaginative Play

July 16, 2026

LAKE ELMO, MN - July 16, 2026 -

Kringle Workshops has highlighted its Wooden Bobcat Skid Steer Toy as families seek engaging outdoor and indoor activities during the summer months. The Minnesota workshop, operated by Tom Bethke, continues its tradition of crafting durable handmade wooden toys that encourage creativity and hands-on exploration in the Lake Elmo home workshop.

The Wooden Bobcat Skid Steer measures approximately 15.5 inches long, 8.5 inches tall, and 7.5 inches wide. It is constructed from sturdy pine with smooth oak wheels and features a working bucket that moves up and down. This functional element allows children to simulate loading and dumping materials such as dirt or sand, supporting imaginative construction scenarios. Like all items from the workshop, the toy is sanded smooth with no sharp corners and left unfinished to preserve the natural wood grain and provide an eco-friendly tactile experience.

Assembly involves water-based glue and wooden dowels for secure joints designed to withstand active play. The Bobcat joins other vehicle and equipment-themed pieces in the collection, including the Pickup Truck & Horse Trailer with its pivoting ramp, the Wooden Pickup Truck / Camper with Boat, and the Flatbed

Tow Truck with Car. Farm-inspired options such as the Tractor, Combine, and Logging Truck, along with the Dump Truck, Excavator, and Train, offer a range of play possibilities powered entirely by a child's imagination rather than batteries.

Tom Bethke, the founder and craftsman known as Santa Tom, described the appeal of the featured toy. "The Wooden Bobcat Skid Steer brings construction play to life with its movable bucket, making it ideal for little builders during summer adventures, whether in the backyard or indoors," said Bethke. "We design these toys to be used and enjoyed, creating opportunities for storytelling and skill-building that can last through many seasons."

Bethke's background as a professional Santa Claus for over 50 years informs his approach to toymaking, drawing from family woodworking traditions and a fine arts foundation. Each toy receives a wood-burned Kringle Elf logo as a mark of its handcrafted origin. The workshop produces items on a small scale, allowing for careful attention to detail and the option for custom requests that align with established safety and quality standards.

This summer focus on the Bobcat aligns with broader family interests in screen-free activities that promote physical interaction and creativity. The toys are recommended for children ages three and older, with their robust construction supporting years of use and potential as heirlooms passed between generations. Free shipping on all orders enhances accessibility for families seeking American-made options.

Additional designs in the lineup include the Classic Hot Rod Car, Fire Truck, Garbage Truck, and Monster Truck, each sharing the same commitment to natural materials like pine, oak, and birch. The unfinished surfaces not only reduce environmental impact but also allow the unique characteristics of the wood to shine through, fostering a connection to traditional craftsmanship.

Bethke added further thoughts on the workshop's role. "Seeing children engage with these toys during the longer days of summer reminds us why we put so much care into every piece," he noted. "They become part of family routines, backyard projects, and lasting memories built through simple, joyful play."

Kringle Workshops maintains its dedication to safe, sustainable production methods in a home-based setting. The emphasis on durability ensures that toys like the Wooden Bobcat can endure enthusiastic use while encouraging open-ended scenarios that develop problem-solving and narrative abilities.

As summer continues, the workshop invites families to explore its full range of handmade creations. Each item reflects a philosophy of quality over quantity, with personal oversight at every stage from material selection to final inspection, including a signed Certificate of Authenticity.

Founded in Lake Elmo, Minnesota, Kringle Workshops is a small business specializing in handmade wooden toys. Owner Tom Bethke crafts each item in his home workshop using sustainable woods and traditional techniques. The toys are built for durability, safety, and imaginative play, making them suitable for children ages three and up as cherished family treasures.

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For more information about Kringle Workshops, contact the company here: Kringle Workshops Tom Bethke 651-552-7709 Kringleworkshops@comcast.net

Kringle Workshops

Kringle Workshops crafts wooden toys ready to be passed down from generation to generation. All products are made by a small business, right here in America.

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