Peppermint "Smoke Bomb" Brownies

Mint "Smoke Bombs":

5 cups powdered sugar

Large star sprinkles

Small star sprinkles

8 tablespoons (1/2 cup) melted butter

One bag of Wilton's Candy melts in red

One bag of Twizzler's Red, White and Blue licorice (I found it at Target)

2 teaspoons peppermint extract

Food color in red and blue

INGREDIENTS:

Brownie:

1cup butter

2 cup sugar

3 eggs

2 teaspoons vanilla

2 cups flour

1/2 cup cocoa

1/2 teaspoon salt

1 cup milk

Chocolate Glaze:

6oz. semi-sweet chocolate chips

6 tablespoons butter (do not substitute margarine here!)

DIRECTIONS:

Brownie:

Preheat oven to 350F.

Cream butter and sugar together.

Beat in eggs, cocoa, vanilla and salt.

Add flour and milk (alternating them and mixing well in between)

Spoon evenly into 24 cupcake liners in a cupcake tin.

Bake at 350 degrees for 15-18 minutes (don't over bake- they will start to pull away from the liner)

Cool.

Chocolate Glaze

Melt butter and chocolate together in the microwave in 30 second increments, stirring in between until completely melted and smooth.

Set aside until bombs are made

Mint Smoke Bombs:

Melt red candy melts in microwave in 30 second increments, stirring between until smooth.

Use a pastry brush to brush melts into a chocolate bomb mold and freeze for a couple minutes until hard. Do two coats- freezing in between.

Make mint filling by adding melted butter to sugar and extract.

Mix well, using water to bring it to a thick but spreadable consistency.

Divide into 3 parts and color 2 of them red and blue using food coloring.

Place all three colors into a large zip-top bag and swirl together with a knife before sealing bag.

Cut a corner off bag and pipe mint filling into each red bomb shell- filling them about 3/4 full.

Refreeze these for a few minutes before gently popping them out and setting them on a plate.

Repeat this process until you have 24 mint bombs ready.

Assemble brownies by spooning a little glaze on top of a brownie cup and then setting a bomb on top. Sprinkle edges with small star decorations and freeze to harden the glaze.

Once all your brownies are in the freezer, make the wicks by pulling apart the licorice and cutting into 1 to 2 inch pieces of blue. Dip one end into the leftover red candy melts (you might need to remelt these) and set it on top of a red star sprinkle to harden.

Once these have hardened, and your brownies are nice and cold, take a few brownies out of the freezer, dip the end of a wick in red candy melts and hold it to the top of a cold peppermint bomb. It should immediately set and hold the wick in place.

Then- simply enjoy the smiles as people bite into your yummy (and very patriotic!) peppermint brownies!!!

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