

**“Every leaf
speaks bliss to
me, fluttering
from the autumn
tree.”** —Emily Brontë



Outdoor Art Creator

As an artist, you can walk outside and see colors, shapes, and ideas for things you want to create. Find out how you can make your own art outdoors and have fun doing it!

Steps

1. Find art ideas outdoors
2. Make something!
3. Dance or make music outdoors
4. Be a nature photographer
5. Design with nature

Purpose

When I've earned this badge, I'll know how to do different kinds of fun art projects outdoors.



Leave No Trace

Remember to practice “Leave No Trace” as you create your outdoor art!

- Know Before You Go
- Stick to Trails
- Trash Your Trash
- Leave It As You Find It
- Keep Wildlife Wild
- Respect Others



poison ivy

Leaves of three, let them be! Poison ivy and poison oak have three leaves—so to be safe, stay clear of any plants with three leaves.

poison oak



Brownie Scout Handbook, 1951



Safety First!

Staying safe will make earning this badge more fun, so before you step outside, check out this list:

- ▶ **Don't go alone.** Make sure an adult you know joins you on your outdoor adventure.
- ▶ **Dress the part.** Sunny out? Don't forget the sunscreen! Cold out? Zip up! Wear protective clothing—like a jacket, a hat, and gloves. Hiking a trail? Wear hiking shoes.
- ▶ **Pack for safety.** Bring a backpack with a reusable bottle of water. Optional: a first aid kit with bandages and antibiotic cream, a whistle, a flashlight with batteries, and a camera.
- ▶ **Stay connected.** Bring a cell phone in case you need to call for help. If you don't have a phone, make sure an adult with you does—and that the phone has good reception.
- ▶ **Be aware of your surroundings.** Pay attention to where you walk. Keep an eye out for signs, especially if you're hiking a trail that goes in different directions.



STEP

1 Find art ideas outdoors

Every step has three choices. Do ONE choice to complete each step.
Inspired?
Do more!

Art can be found everywhere—not just inside the four walls of a museum. Go outdoors to collect ideas for art! Find colors you can use in a drawing, a shape you want to copy, or a new way to be creative.

CHOICES—DO ONE:

☐ **Go on a nature detective walk.** You can do this in a park, on a trail, or in your backyard. Look through a tube from a paper towel roll to focus on things close or far away. Spot at least three things from the list on the side of this page. Just observe and make a checkmark next to the item you find—don't collect or touch anything!

OR

☐ **Use your senses in nature.** Go outside with a pen and paper, and write down words or draw pictures of what you see, feel, hear, and smell. Is it sunny or cool? Do you see pictures in the clouds? Shapes in flowers? Can you smell pine needles or rain? Do you hear the wind in the trees or the sound of the leaves crunching as you walk? Stick out your tongue—does the air have a taste? When you get back, describe five things from your hike to an adult or friend. You can even make it into a story, poem, or picture book. Use your notes!

OR

☐ **Meet an artist who makes art out of things she sees or finds outdoors.** She could be a teacher at school, an artist in the community, or an older girl who likes to draw. Maybe she paints animals, takes photographs of ocean sunsets, or makes crafts from things she finds outdoors. Find out if she can teach you to make something, too.

Spot at least three things from the list below.

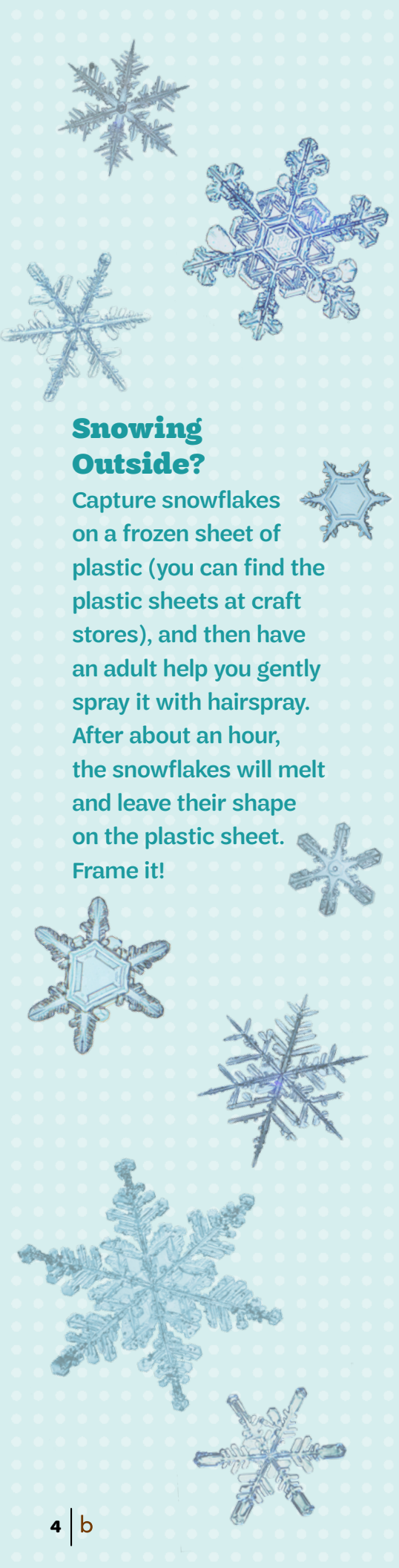
Don't collect or touch anything—just observe and make a checkmark next to the item you find!

- ☐ An animal
- ☐ A plant not colored green
- ☐ A tree with flowers
- ☐ An insect
- ☐ A bird (do you know what kind it is?)
- ☐ A fallen leaf with a pattern you like
- ☐ A rock with an unusual shape
- ☐ A bush as tall as you are
- ☐ A pinecone or acorn
- ☐ Colored moss growing on a rock or tree
- ☐ More fun stuff you find (write what it is)

FOR MORE FUN:

Find things that begin with each letter of the alphabet.





Snowing Outside?

Capture snowflakes on a frozen sheet of plastic (you can find the plastic sheets at craft stores), and then have an adult help you gently spray it with hairspray. After about an hour, the snowflakes will melt and leave their shape on the plastic sheet. Frame it!

STEP 2 Make something!

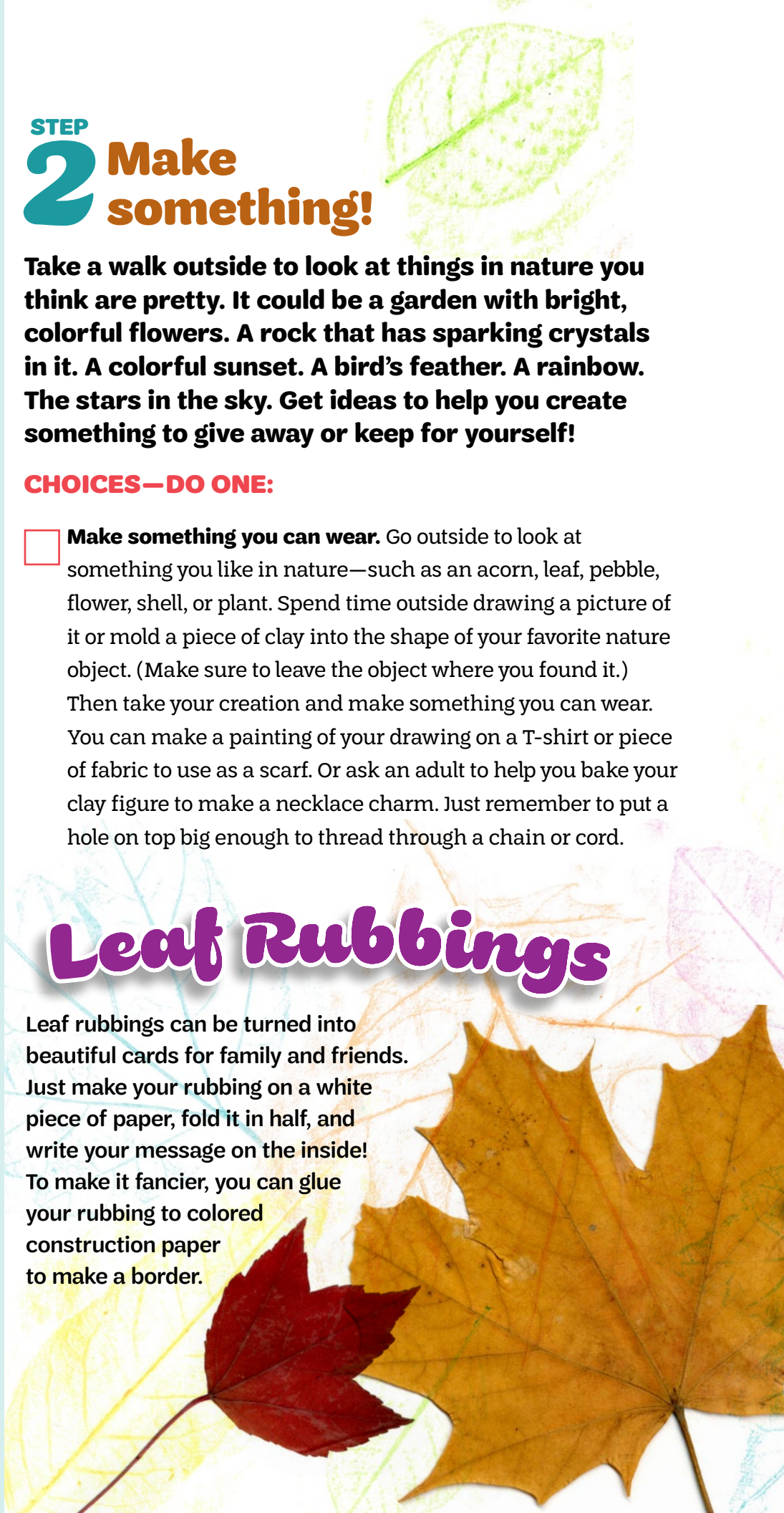
Take a walk outside to look at things in nature you think are pretty. It could be a garden with bright, colorful flowers. A rock that has sparking crystals in it. A colorful sunset. A bird's feather. A rainbow. The stars in the sky. Get ideas to help you create something to give away or keep for yourself!

CHOICES—DO ONE:

- ☐ **Make something you can wear.** Go outside to look at something you like in nature—such as an acorn, leaf, pebble, flower, shell, or plant. Spend time outside drawing a picture of it or mold a piece of clay into the shape of your favorite nature object. (Make sure to leave the object where you found it.) Then take your creation and make something you can wear. You can make a painting of your drawing on a T-shirt or piece of fabric to use as a scarf. Or ask an adult to help you bake your clay figure to make a necklace charm. Just remember to put a hole on top big enough to thread through a chain or cord.

Leaf Rubbings

Leaf rubbings can be turned into beautiful cards for family and friends. Just make your rubbing on a white piece of paper, fold it in half, and write your message on the inside! To make it fancier, you can glue your rubbing to colored construction paper to make a border.



OR

- ☐ **Give a gift of nature.** Look outside for ideas to make a gift for a friend or family member. Make a leaf fan: Draw and color leaves on a piece of paper, cut them out, and glue them to a craft stick. Or tie twigs together to make a picture frame. (Be sure to only pick up items you find on the ground to Leave No Trace!) You could also make a sachet that smells like a flower: Put drops of lavender oil on cotton balls and sew them between two small squares of fabric.

OR

- ☐ **Rub or press something from nature.** Make a leaf rubbing by placing paper over a leaf and rubbing it with a crayon or chalk. Try it with soft and hard leaves to see if there's a difference. Or make a bark cast from a tree. Press clay on a tree trunk, and then remove it gently to make sure you can see the mark from the bark. Be careful not to hurt the bark or leave any clay on it. Do the same thing on several tree trunks to see the different designs in the markings.





Wind Chimes

There are so many different ways to make wind chimes! See if you can find used objects, like cans or keys, and listen to the sound as the wind blows them together.

STEP 3 Dance or make music outdoors



When a bee comes back to its hive, it does an eight-step “waggle dance” to tell its bee friends where the pollen and flowers are. The bee dances to share information with other bees. Can you move your body like a bee does? Or create a song like a bird’s? There are many ways you can express yourself through music and dance—remember, music and dance are art, too!

CHOICES—DO ONE:

- ☐ **Play a nature dance game.** First, on index cards, write names or draw pictures of animals or insects that have fun movements—like how a snake slithers, a deer leaps, and a grasshopper hops. Then go outside with a friend. Each of you takes a flash card and moves like the animal shown on the card. Can you guess what animal your friend is? Can she guess yours?

OR

- ☐ **Write an earth song.** Go on an outdoor walk and make up a song. Use the sounds you hear—like the tweeting of a bird or water running in a stream—to help create your song. You can change words to a song you know or invent your own with rhyming words like this:

*My one dream is to climb
The biggest tree I find
So I can see the sky
And wave from up so high*

Then add your tune!

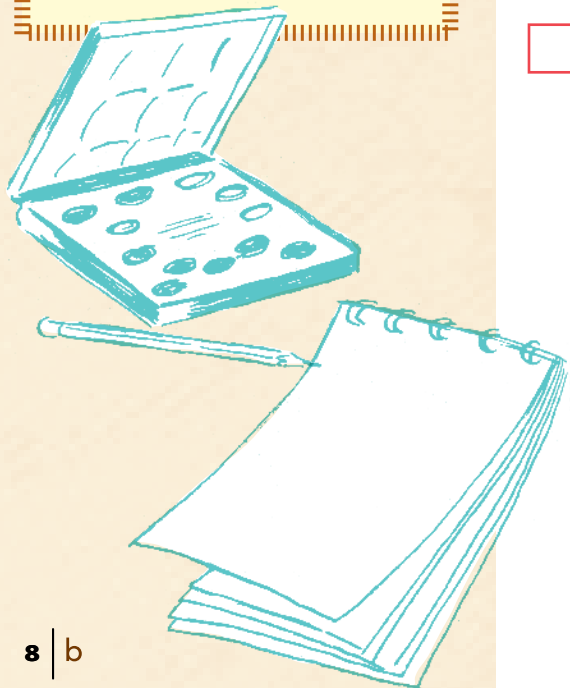
OR

- ☐ **Make a wind chime.** All you need is a stick, some yarn or string, and some objects to hang together that will create a sound when they move in the wind. For example, you can string up keys, tin cans, shells, stones, old flatware, or soda bottle tops.



Make a Shadow Drawing

See how light and shadows change outside throughout the day. Lay a piece of paper under a plant, flower, or branch with leaves. Make sure the object casts a shadow onto the paper. Trace the shadow on the paper with a soft pencil or charcoal. Come back in a short while to see how far the shadow has moved. Trace the new position. Repeat until you can no longer see the shadow.



STEP 4 Be a nature photographer

Whether you have a camera or not, see nature the way a photographer would!

CHOICES—DO ONE:

- ☐ **Take pictures from a miniature world.** Pick something tiny in nature—it could be an ant in a garden or a butterfly in your backyard. Pretend to shrink yourself and take pictures with a camera or smartphone as if you were the ant or butterfly. Zero in on a blade of grass or take a picture looking down at a flower to show what a butterfly sees. Share your pictures with a friend or family member.

FOR MORE FUN: Make up a story using the pictures from your miniature world.

OR

- ☐ **Make a video about something in nature.** Use a video camera or a smartphone to take a video of something outside at different times of the day. This could be a bird feeder, flower, tree, or plant. Does a flower look different in the morning than at night? Does it change throughout the day? Create a story to go with your video and show it to a friend or family member.

OR

- ☐ **No camera? No worries!** Go outside to draw or paint a picture of what you see. Use a magnifying glass to see details: You might see the parts inside a flower or a pattern on a shell. Or make a square using your fingers to see how it might look as a photo. You can also draw a picture of your backyard and add something that's not there, like a unicorn, bird, or butterfly—use your imagination!





Zooming in on **Nature**





STEP 5 Design with nature

Animals and insects are designers and architects: Birds make nests, spiders spin webs, and beavers build dams. They create these to live in, or to catch food, or for protection. Look at the world outdoors and find ways you can design something, too!

CHOICES—DO ONE:

Shape Sticker

In a bowl, mix two parts dish soap and one part water. (An adult can help you measure.) Use a sponge roller or sponge to put the soapy mixture on the window. Stick your shapes anywhere you want. Let it dry! (Make sure to help wash the window when it's time to take your art down.)

- ☐ **Build a Brownie Elf house outdoors.** Pretend Brownie Elf and friends are 3 inches tall and need a place to live outdoors. What kind of home can you make for them? Look for a place to build in your backyard, in the woods, or even on the beach. Use mud, rocks, leaves, twigs, feathers, dry grass, pinecones, shells, and anything else you find to shape into a Brownie Elf house. Make sure to only use items that have fallen, and be careful not to disturb living trees, plants, and flowers.

OR

- ☐ **Create a mini garden.** It could be a box garden where you grow plants and flowers that smell nice, like a scented geranium. If you need to, start your seeds indoors in an empty egg carton, then replant outdoors. Or collect stones, rocks, and gravel, and then arrange them as a design in a special area outside.

OR

- ☐ **Make window art.** Go outside to get ideas about what you want to create. Then bring the art indoors! First, find a sunny window in your house. Use washable paint or markers to re-create your outdoor scene on the window. Or cut out nature shapes from colored cellophane or tissue paper—leaves, trees, flowers, animals, and insects—to temporarily paste or tape on your window. See directions under Shape Sticker on this page for one way to hang your shapes. Make sure to look at your art during different times of the day to see if it changes. How does it look when the sun is shining through the window? How about when it's dark outside?



Plant a pizza: In a pie-shaped space, plant tomatoes, oregano, basil, spinach, garlic, green peppers, and anything else that would make a yummy pizza.

Illustrated Gardens

Plant your name: Plant seeds in the shape of your name and see what grows.



Plant a garden with rainbow colors: Plant flowers or vegetable seeds in colorful rows like a rainbow.



Going on a Journey? Do some badge work along the way.

In *WOW! Wonders of Water*, Brownies take field trips to local parks, zoos, aquariums and gardens—perfect places to get outdoor art ideas for Step 1 of this badge! Take a notebook and draw what you see: maybe the ocean, a dolphin, or a coral reef. You can write a song or do a dance near a waterfall.

Now that I've earned this badge, I can give service by:

- Teaching Daisies how to play a nature dance game outdoors
- Making a video about caring for nature to share with others
- Working with my troop to create a mini-garden for a community area in need



I'm inspired to:

Special thanks to our council and volunteer badge co-creation team:

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Deb King and Chrissy Turner, Girl Scouts
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***“Art is as natural
as sunshine
and as vital as
nourishment.”***

—MaryAnn F. Kohl



Outdoor Art Explorer

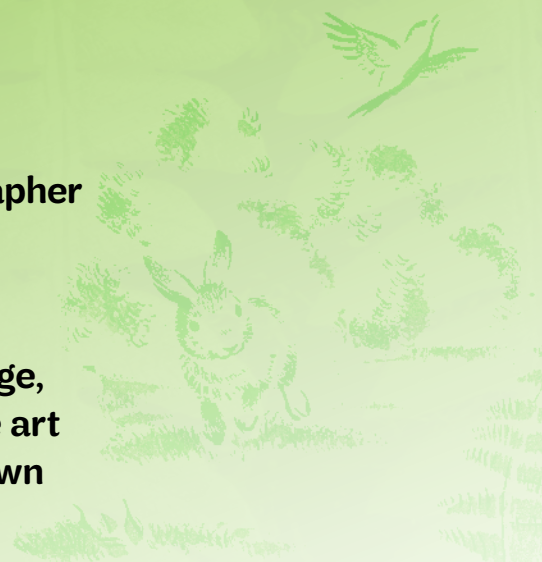
From murals on buildings to oil paintings of landscapes, art and the outdoors go hand in hand. Let nature be your inspiration as you explore, create, and design different kinds of art.

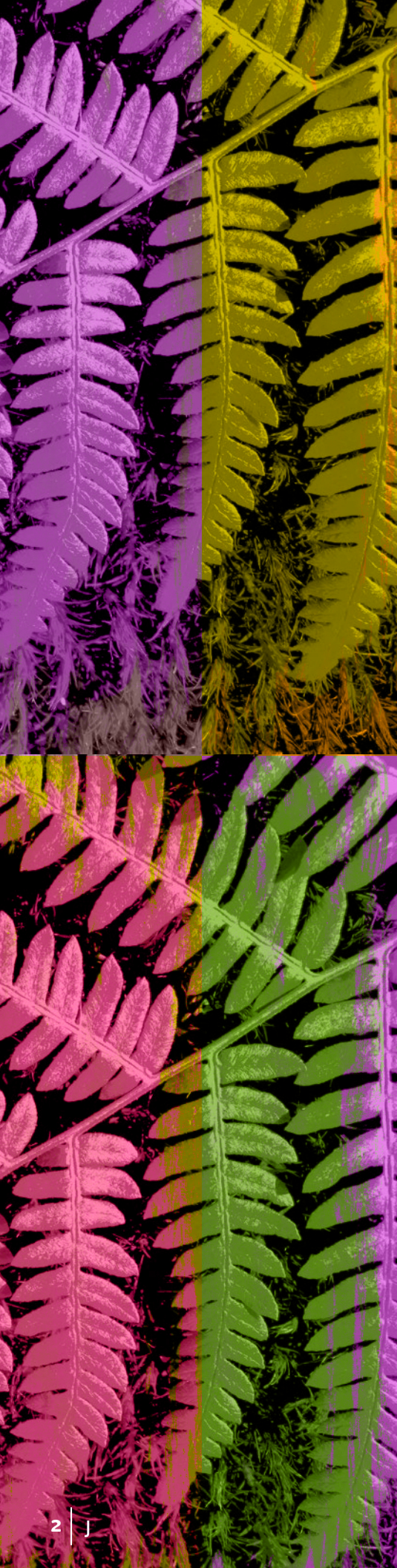
Steps

1. Explore outdoor art
2. Make something!
3. Find music in nature
4. Be a nature photographer
5. Design with nature

Purpose

When I've earned this badge, I will know how to find the art in nature and create my own outdoor artwork.

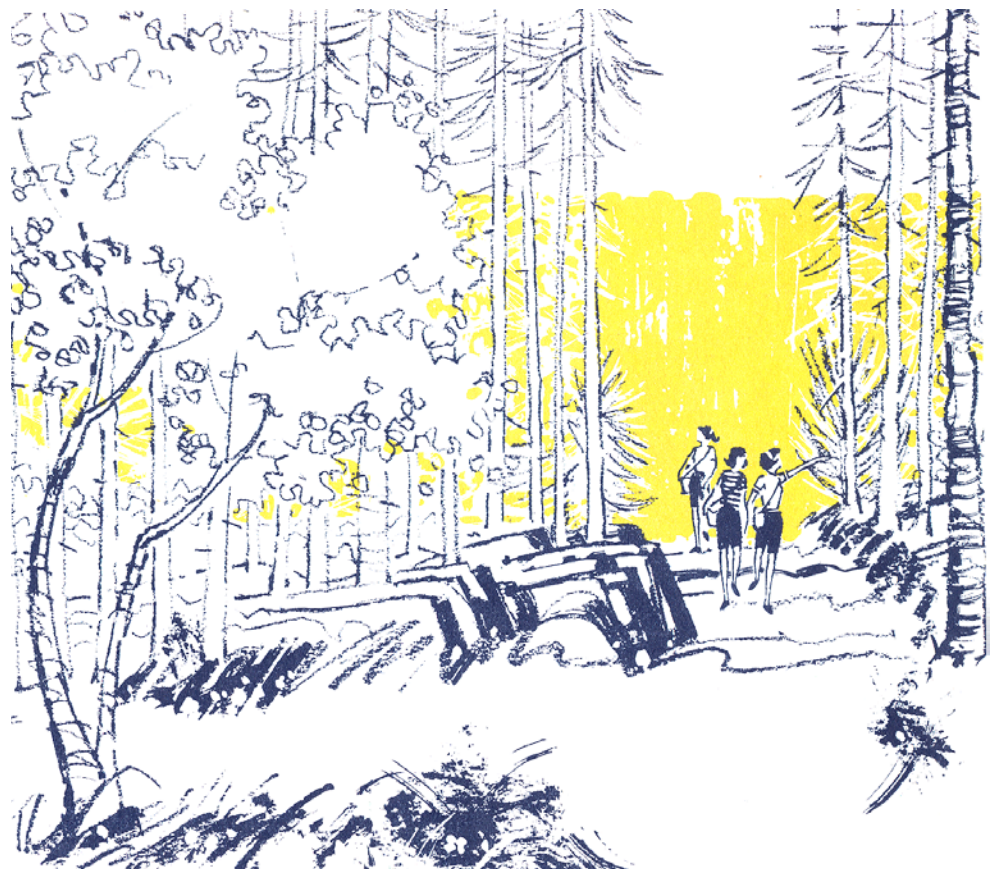




Tips Before Takeoff

Staying safe will make earning this badge more fun, so before you step outside, check out this list:

- ▶ **Don't go alone.** Make sure an adult you know joins you on your outdoor adventure.
- ▶ **Dress the part.** Sunny out? Don't forget the sunscreen! Cold out? Zip up! Wear protective clothing—like a jacket, a hat, and gloves. Hiking a trail? Wear hiking shoes.
- ▶ **Pack for safety.** Bring a backpack with a reusable bottle of water. Optional: a first aid kit with bandages and antibiotic cream, a whistle, a flashlight with batteries, and a camera.
- ▶ **Stay connected.** Bring a cell phone in case you need to contact someone for help. If you don't have a phone, make sure an adult with you does—and that the phone has good reception.
- ▶ **Be aware of your surroundings.** Pay attention to where you walk. Keep an eye out for signs, especially if you're hiking a trail that goes in different directions.



Every step has three choices. Do ONE choice to complete each step. Inspired? Do more!

CHOICES-DO ONE:

- Create art inspired by wildlife.** Get outside and observe the local wildlife in your area. (From a respectful distance, of course!) Think about the different colors, textures, and body parts that you see. How do these features help each living creature thrive in your environment? Now mix things up! Create an art piece—it could be a painting, a sculpture, or a collage—to show a whole new kind of wildlife that would be well suited to your local environment. Maybe a bullfrog with a wide tail to fan itself during heat waves, or a pigeon that grows a fur coat when it's cold? The sky's the limit!

OR

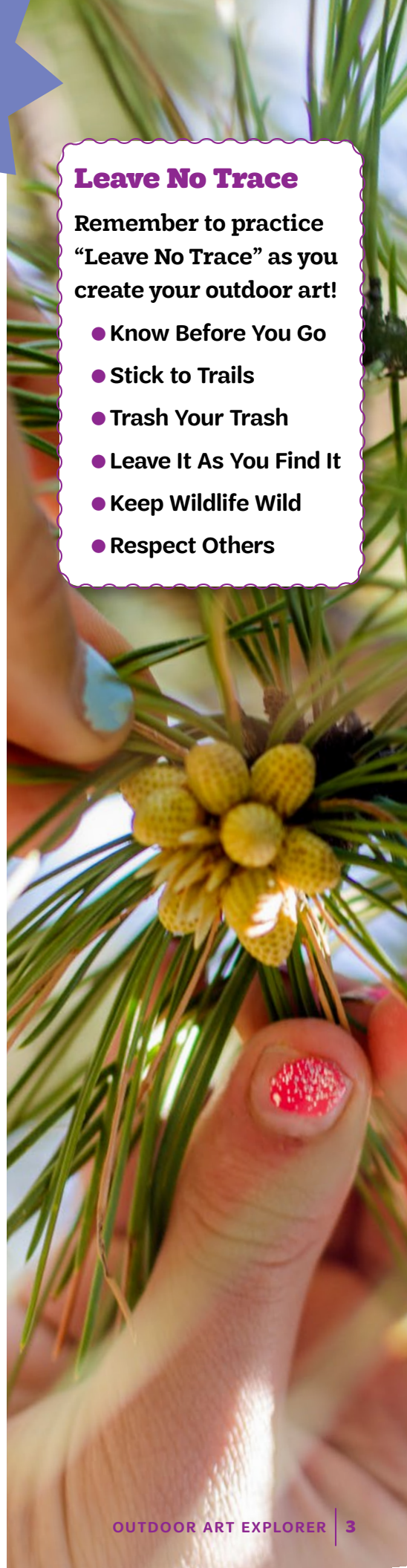
- Compare indoor and outdoor performance art.** This choice is done in two parts, one at the beginning of the badge and one at the end. At the start of the badge, hold a performance inside—it could be a skit, song, or dance. At the end of your work on this badge, hold the same type of performance outdoors. Use the outdoor space to make some changes to your performance—maybe move around more to fill a larger space or step on rocks to make sure your voice is heard. How did the outdoor experience feel different to you? How did the sound change?

OR 

- Talk to an artist.** There are women artists everywhere, and each one has her own unique story. Talk to an artist you know—she could be an art teacher or even an older Girl Scout who loves to draw or paint—and learn about her artwork. How has her art been influenced by the outdoors? Where does she get her inspiration? After you talk to her, make an art piece of your own that's inspired by her work.

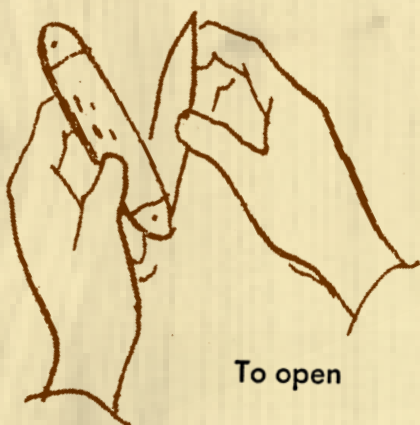
**Remember to practice
“Leave No Trace” as you
create your outdoor art!**

- **Know Before You Go**
- **Stick to Trails**
- **Trash Your Trash**
- **Leave It As You Find It**
- **Keep Wildlife Wild**
- **Respect Others**



Tips for Using a Jackknife

- Move at least an arm's length away from anyone else before using a jackknife.
- Hold the handle securely with the whole hand.
- Always cut away from the body.
- Keep the jackknife closed when not in use.
- Do not walk around with an open jackknife.
- Keep the jackknife away from extreme cold or heat: Either will ruin the metal and plastic parts of the knife.
- Use the jackknife responsibly.



Girl Scout Handbook, 1953

STEP 2 Make something!

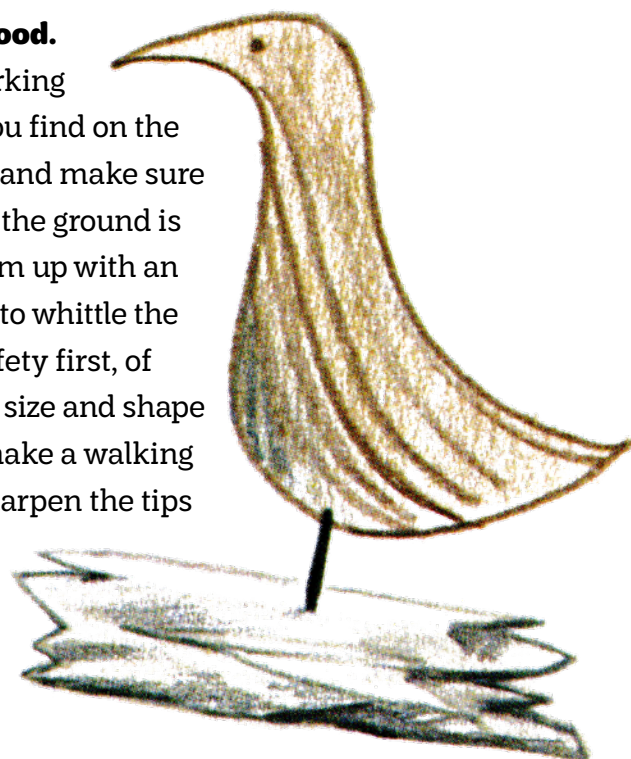
If you like getting crafty, now's your chance! Let nature be your guide as you make an outdoor-themed project. You can keep it for yourself, or share as a gift for a friend or family member.

CHOICES-DO ONE:


- Make something wearable.** Buddy up and take a night walk with an adult to a place where you can get a good look at the sky. (It can be hard to see the night sky when you're around a lot of lights or tall buildings.) Then design a piece of clothing that represents what you saw. You can do it in any way you like, but you might try starting with a plain dark T-shirt and making a "reverse tie dye" print (using bleach instead of dye) or a "galaxy" shirt, which is made by dabbing fabric paint on the shirt with sponges and then flicking white paint over it to make "stars." Check out the next spread for more details! If you use bleach for your project, make sure to wear rubber gloves and protective eyewear.

OR 

- Make something with wood.**
- Try your hand at woodworking with sticks or branches you find on the ground. (Be sure to check and make sure that collecting wood from the ground is allowed in your area.) Team up with an adult and use a jackknife to whittle the wood. Talk about knife safety first, of course! Depending on the size and shape of your wood, you could make a walking stick or a sculpture—or sharpen the tips to make stick pens. (Dip them into blueberries or raspberries mixed with water for ink!)



OR 

 **Make an impression.** Using clay or salt dough, make an outdoor-themed impression. You might collect leaves or shells, or anything that's unique to the area where you live. Press your found objects into the clay or dough, then remove them and return them to the place where they were found. If you'd like to hang your impression when it's finished, make a hole at the top for string. (You may need to re-poke the hole a few times as your impression dries to keep it from closing up.) Your impression can be dried in the oven on low heat—ask an adult for help—or outside in the sun on a hot day.

FOR MORE FUN: Make your own salt dough!

Salt Dough

MATERIALS:

- 3 cups flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup water (plus up to ½ cup extra water, if needed)
- Food coloring (optional)
- Electric mixer
- Drinking straws (optional)
- Parchment paper or aluminum foil

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1 Mix the flour and salt together in a bowl.
- 2 Add 1 cup of water to the flour mix. To make colored dough, add 15 drops of food coloring to the water before mixing it into the dough.
- 3 Use the electric mixer to

mix the dough on medium speed until a ball forms. If the dough is dry, slowly add water (1 tablespoon at a time) until the dough comes together.

- 4 Remove the dough; knead it until smooth.
- 5 Form the dough into disks and make your impressions. If you want to hang your finished project, use a straw to poke a hole at the top.
- 6 With adult help, preheat the oven to 275 degrees.
- 7 Bake dough pieces on a foil- or parchment paper-lined cookie sheet for 2 hours. Cool completely before handling.



A young girl with blonde hair is jumping joyfully in a wooded area. She is wearing a long-sleeved shirt with a galaxy print (dark blue/purple with white speckles) over a white long-sleeved shirt, light blue pants, and brown shoes. Her arms are raised and her mouth is open in a happy expression. The background shows bare trees and a wooden trellis structure. There are three yellow star graphics on the page: one in the top left, one in the middle right, and one in the bottom right.

Make a Galaxy Shirt

To make a galaxy shirt, put on some old clothes and head outside—it's a messy process! Talk to an adult about the best place to make and dry your shirt in order to keep the bleach from getting on anything else.



You will need:

- ★ Two large pieces of plastic (garbage bags will work)
- ★ A plain black cotton shirt, washed
- ★ Water
- ★ Rubber gloves and goggles
- ★ Bleach
- ★ Spray bottle
- ★ White fabric paint (additional colors, like blue, purple, yellow, or fuchsia, are optional)
- ★ Balled-up small plastic grocery bag
- ★ Old toothbrush

Make your shirt:

1. Lay your shirt over one piece of plastic on the ground, and put the second piece inside the shirt. This will keep bleach and paint from soaking through to the other side.

2. Mix half water and half bleach in the spray bottle. Be sure to wear rubber gloves and eye protection when mixing and spraying bleach.

3. Spray the bleach mixture onto the shirt. Don't completely cover the shirt with bleach—you want to keep some areas black. Spray some sections close together and some far apart. If you want, you can twist the shirt and spray to create a "star cluster."

4. Once the bleached areas turn a reddish color (it will probably take 5 or 10 minutes), rinse the shirt in cold water and dry it. You can put it in the dryer or let it dry in the sun.

5. Lightly dab paint with a balled-up plastic bag and apply it to the edges of the bleached spots on your shirt. If you are using colors other than white, start with the darker colors (blue and purple), then add the lighter colors like teal and fuchsia.

6. Once the paint is on the shirt, spray the shirt with water and use a balled-up plastic bag to lighten and blur the paint.

7. Add your "stars" by dipping the toothbrush into white paint, then bending the bristles back to flick paint on to the shirt. You might want to practice this on a piece of paper first, to get the hang of it.

8. Let your shirt dry flat for 72 hours. Follow the instructions on your fabric paint for washing.

Note: This will work on any dark clothing—if you'd rather make leggings, a scarf, or a dress, go for it!



Spray bleach



Dab paint



Spatter stars

For this activity, a group of people sit in a circle, with one person as the leader. The leader starts making sounds, and one by one each person follows the lead of the person on their right. If you're the leader, you might start like this:

- ## STEP 3 Find music in nature

CHOICES-DO ONE:

- FOR MORE FUN:** Change the words of a popular song to make it into a hiking song.

OR

- OR**

- 8 | J

MAKE A RAIN STICK

You can make your own “rain stick”—a tube-shaped instrument that sounds like rain when you turn it over—by following these steps.

MATERIALS

- Kraft paper
- Paper tube, like the kind from wrapping paper or paper towels (the longer the tube, the longer the rain sound)
- Scissors
- Acrylic paint
- Paint brushes
- Optional: Paint pen
- Masking tape
- Aluminum foil
- Broom handle or dowel
- ½ cup rice
- ¼ cup un-popped popcorn
- Glue stick



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Wrap kraft paper around the tube and trim it to size with about a ½-inch overlap.
2. Paint and decorate the kraft paper.
3. Cover one end of the tube with masking tape.

4. Cut a piece of an aluminum foil that is about 1 and ½ times the length of the tube.

5. Crunch the aluminum foil into a long thin shape, then twist it around a broom handle or dowel to form a coil.

6. Remove the coil from the dowel and gently tug it until it is a little longer than the length of the tube. Twist the coil into the tube.

7. Pour the rice and un-popped popcorn into the tube.

8. Put masking tape over the other end of the tube. Double up the masking tape on both ends of the tube to add strength.

9. Lay the tube on the undecorated kraft paper. Add glue to the long edge of the kraft paper and attach the tube to the paper.

10. Add more glue to the kraft paper and continue rolling until the tube is covered. Let the glue dry completely.



(1898–1991) photographed many different subjects over the course of her long career, but she is best-known for her black-and-white photos of New York City in the 1930s. She found art in all different aspects of the city, from the construction of Rockefeller Center to goods for sale in store windows. “Photography can never grow up if it imitates some other medium,” she said. “It has to walk alone; it has to be itself.”



STEP

Photographers are artists who see the world through the lens of a camera. Head outside with a camera (a cell phone camera works, too—if you don't have a cell phone, see if you can borrow one) and become a nature photographer!

Play with light. Find an outdoor space that you love and photograph it at three different times of day. How does the light change the photo? What happens to the shadows? Which photo is your favorite and why?

FOR MORE FUN: Photograph your space in three different kinds of weather—maybe sunny, cloudy, and rainy or snowy.

OR

Explore structures. From chicken coops to skyscrapers, human-made structures have to work together with nature. In the Northeastern states and in the mountains of the western United States, homes are built to handle heavy snow on the roof; you'll find homes designed for tornado safety in the Midwest. Head outdoors to explore buildings and other structures in your area. Take a picture of one structure that you think works well with nature, and one that doesn't. Get together with your Girl Scout friends to compare your photos and talk about what you found.

OR

Go big and small. *Macro* means big and *micro* means small. Try taking macro and micro shots of outdoor objects by zooming in and out with your camera. (Some cameras have macro and micro settings, too.) Take a series of photos where you get closer and closer in on an object until it's difficult to tell what it is. Share your photos with family or friends—see how long it takes them to guess what's shown in the pictures.

STEP 5 Design with nature

From sculptures to gardens, outdoor art changes the appearance of the environment. Work together with nature to design a piece of outdoor art.

CHOICES-DO ONE:

- Design outdoor art.** Visit at least one piece of outdoor art in your area. It could be anything from a statue to a mural on a building wall. (If you're not sure where to find any, public parks are a good place to start.) How does the art change the look of the area around it? Is it something you would have chosen for that space? Sketch or paint a picture of the kind of outdoor art you'd like to see in your community.


FOR MORE FUN: Visit the art with your Girl Scout friends, then compare your drawings and paintings when you're finished.

OR

- Design a bird, bat, or owl house.** Houses for flying friends are not just useful—they can also be works of art. Design a bird, bat, or owl house that will be a welcome shelter and also add to the beauty of nature.

FOR MORE FUN: Build your house!

OR

-  **Design a terrarium.** A terrarium is a miniature garden inside a container. Sketch or paint a design for a terrarium that reminds you of your favorite outdoor space.

FOR MORE FUN: Bring your sketch or painting to life by making your terrarium. Try upcycling a container that's no longer being used, like a clear bottle or Mason jar. *Upcycling* means finding a new way to use an object so it's not thrown away.





Going on a Journey? Do some badge work along the way.

On the *aMUSE* Journey, you'll talk to a woman you'd like to know better and ask her about the different roles she plays in her life. If you choose to talk to an artist in Step 1 of this badge, ask her how she balances her different roles—maybe at her job, as a sister, or in her friendships—with being an artist. Are there women who have paved the way for her in any of these roles?

Now that I've earned this badge, I can give service by:

- Creating a collage of nature photos for a senior or community center
- Performing outdoor music with a group of younger Girl Scouts
- Making an outdoor-themed gift to cheer up a sick friend or family member

I'm inspired to:

Special thanks to our council and volunteer badge co-creation team:

Tracey Bunch and Susan Groff,
Girl Scouts of Eastern PA

Deb King and Chrissy Turner, Girl Scouts
of the Green and White Mountains

Lorena Kirschner, Girl
Scouts of Northern NJ

Kristi Thunker and Megan Brink,
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Scarlett Webb, Girl Scouts
of Western NY

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UPC 64013



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“In nature, nothing is perfect, and everything is perfect. Trees can be contorted, bend in weird ways, and they’re still beautiful.”

—Alice Walker



Outdoor Art Apprentice

Being outside in nature is a great way to spark your creativity. Some of our greatest works of art are inspired by nature—from early on, cave people drew pictures of sunsets, the sky, animals, and trees. Get ready to observe and collect things outdoors that will drive your art and creativity—from colors and patterns to landscapes and wildlife.

Steps

1. Explore art outdoors
2. Make something!
3. Get to know—and create—sounds of nature
4. Be a nature photographer
5. Design with nature

Purpose

When I’ve earned this badge, I will have been inspired outdoors and created nature-themed art.





Leave No Trace

Remember to practice “Leave No Trace” as you create your outdoor art!

- ✧ Know Before You Go
- ✧ Stick to Trails
- ✧ Trash Your Trash
- ✧ Leave It As You Find It
- ✧ Keep Wildlife Wild
- ✧ Respect Others

Tips Before Takeoff

Staying safe will make earning this badge more fun, so before you step outside, check out this list:

- ▶ **Don’t go alone.** Make sure an adult you know joins you on your outdoor adventure.
- ▶ **Dress the part.** Sunny out? Don’t forget the sunscreen! Cold out? Zip up! Wear protective clothing—like a jacket, a hat, and gloves. Hiking a trail? Wear hiking shoes.
- ▶ **Pack for safety.** Bring a backpack with a reusable bottle of water. Optional: a first aid kit with bandages and antibiotic cream, a whistle, a flashlight with batteries, and a camera.
- ▶ **Stay connected.** Bring a cell phone in case you need to contact someone for help. Make sure you have good reception.
- ▶ **Be aware of your surroundings.** Pay attention to where you walk. Keep an eye out for signs, especially if you’re hiking a trail that goes in different directions.

STEP

1 Explore art outdoors

Art can be found everywhere, not just inside the four walls of a museum. Put on your artist’s cap and head outside to gather ideas that will spark your creativity.

Every step has three choices. Do ONE choice to complete each step. Inspired? Do more!

CHOICES—DO ONE:

- ☐ **Attend a performance held indoors and one outside to compare each.** Find an event inside and one outside—compare the experience of seeing each. This could be an outdoor movie, concert, or play. Record your responses to each experience. How did they differ? Which setting did you prefer? How did being inside or out change your experience?
OR
- ☐ **Record how things change outdoors.** Head outside and find a scene—it might be a lake, a tree, the ocean, a trail, or a plant in your backyard. Write about it or sketch it in color. Record everything you observe. What season is it? What time of day? What colors do you see? What do you like about your scene? Then go out and record this same setting again at another time of day or even a different season. You might see the same tree reflected in a pond during the summer and in ice during the winter. Is the lighting different? Did weather make a difference in the scene? In what ways do your two impressions of the same scene differ?
OR

- **Dig into an artist who is inspired by nature.** Look for an artist who uses nature in her work. She might be someone living or dead that you research online or whose work you admire in a museum. She might be an art teacher, family friend, older girl, or person you meet at a craft fair or gallery. Find out what moves her when she's outdoors. What materials does she use? Why does she choose nature for her art? Then use her as inspiration to create something on your own.

More to Explore

Explore Art in a National Park

For years, the landscapes, preserves, and monuments of our National Parks have inspired artists. Some artists can sign up to live and work in the parks—imagine taking nature photographs while living in a remote cabin at Alaska's Denali National Park or writing a song about the crocodiles

in Florida's Everglades National Park! To see some artists' work, go to www.nps.gov and check out Arts in the Parks. Click on "collections" to browse through some digital exhibitions. Or better yet, see art in person at the Kolb Studio, in Grand Canyon National Park, or the sculpture gardens at Saint-Gaudens, in New Hampshire.



Courtesy of Kathy Hodge



Kathy Hodge (left), who painted the picture above, has worked as the artist-in-residence in many national parks, from Acadia National Park in Maine, to Petrified Forest National Park, in Arizona.

Prepare Your Fabric for Dyeing

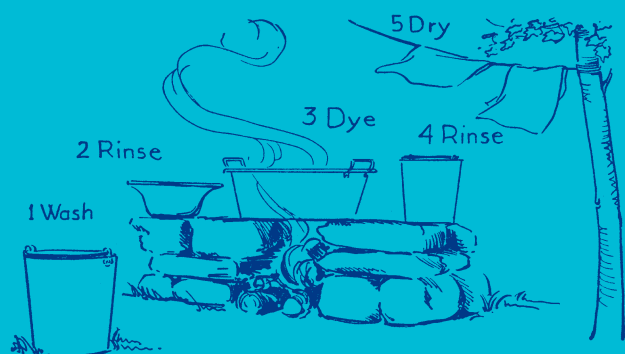
Blueberries, blackberries, and red cabbage create lovely blues. Raspberries and beets create red shades. Orange and lemon peels make light yellow or ochre dye. Spinach creates a nice green, and onion skins simmer into orange.

To make sure the dye sets into your fabric, first soak your fabric for at least one hour in one of these combinations:

- ▶ **For berry dyes:**
Dissolve $\frac{1}{2}$ cup salt in 8 cups cold water.
- ▶ **For plant dyes:** Mix 4 parts cold water to 1 cup white vinegar. Make sure to use rubber gloves!

Here are a few common things that can be used and the colors they make:

Onion skins	— Light brown, yellow, orange
Spinach	— Green
Beets	— Rose
Goldenrod flowers	— Gold
Coffee	— Brown
Red sumac (leaves)	— Black
Red sumac (berries)	— Red
Carrots	— Yellow



Steps in dyeing

Girl Scout Handbook, 1951

STEP 2 Make something!

It's always fun to make something you can wear or give away! Just make sure not to disturb growing things—only use fallen leaves, pine cones, plants, or flowers. Ready to get started?

CHOICES—DO ONE:

- ☐ **Dye something you can wear.** Find natural dye materials—beets, berries, roots, nuts, carrots, tea leaves, or flowers—to dye a shirt, tote, scarf, or whatever you want! Look for natural dyeing materials in your backyard and experiment. Use a color fixative to help your dye set (see Prepare Your Fabric for Dyeing on this page for instructions). The best fabrics to dye are cotton, silk, wool, and linen. Synthetic fabrics, like polyester, might work, too, but with lighter results.

OR

- ☐ **Make nature art out of clay.** Clay is one of the most versatile materials you can use to create whatever you want—like something decorative (a pendant) or functional (a pencil holder). Head outside for inspiration—find a flower or animal to use as a model—then draw it and re-create it as a clay sculpture. Or put on a puppet show by creating clay shapes of the sun, moon, a cloud, star, and rainbow—add eyes and a mouth to each. Glue the shapes on craft sticks and perform your nature show for a younger girl. Find out how to make clay online or get clay at a craft store.

OR

- ☐ **Make paper that grows.** Make a paper item that's embedded with seeds so the person you give it to can plant it in a garden or pot and watch it grow! See the directions on the next page. You can create things like bookmarks, gift tags, and greeting cards. Use colored markers to write a message on your seed paper. Make sure to include planting directions with your gift. Tip: Use seeds that are small, flat, and native to your area.

Fun Fact

To Dye-For Jeans: Denim blue jeans were originally made using dye from the indigo bush in India. Today's jeans are dyed using a synthetic (human-made) version.

HOW TO MAKE SEED PAPER

You Will Need:

- Thumbtacks
- Wooden frame
- Hammer
- Construction paper
- Blender or electric mixer
- Large baking pan (to dip your frame in)
- Seeds
- Paper towels or reusable cleaning cloths
- Old bath towel



▲ **1.** Thumbtack a mesh screen tightly across a frame (it could be an old picture frame). Use a hammer if necessary.



2. Soak shredded paper overnight in bowl of water.

◀ **3.** The next day, add soaked paper to a blender and mix (make sure to use the lid!) or beat carefully with an electric mixer to make a smooth pulp. If the mixture isn't smooth, add water.

4. Put pulp mixture in a baking pan, then add more water as needed.

5. Stir in seeds.

6. Stir up the mix with your hands (to keep things from settling at the bottom).

7. Hold the screen frame parallel to the tabletop and dip it into the pulp-and-seed mixture. Gently move it from side to side to remove excess water and distribute the pulp evenly on the screen.



▲ **8.** Lift the screen frame out of the water, keeping it parallel to the tabletop.

9. Place the screen frame with the pulp and seed mixture on top of an old bath towel and let it drain. Press a paper towel or cleaning cloth to absorb and lift the water from the paper.

10. Place the frame, pulp side down, onto another dry paper towel or cleaning cloth.

11. Slowly lift the screen and peel the edge of the paper away so the seed paper drops onto the cloth. ▶



12. Let the paper dry overnight or place outside in the sun to dry.

13. Cut your paper into shapes and decorate it!

⚙ **Tip:** If the paper is not flat after drying, place a heavy book over it for a few hours.

Directions for planting: Lay paper on top of soil and sprinkle 1/4-inch layer of soil over it. Water soil lightly and keep seeds wet until they sprout.





STEP

3 Get to know—and create—sounds of nature.

The sounds you hear outdoors are a powerful connection to nature. Think about how you feel when you hear rolling thunder, water flowing in a stream, or a bird chirping. Take your cues outdoors as you absorb the natural sounds of wind, water, wildlife, weather, plants, and trees, and make music!

CHOICES—DO ONE:

- ☐ **Produce outdoor sounds.** Go outdoors and listen for sounds. It can be at a park, on a trail, or in your backyard. Then go indoors to re-create the sounds vocally or by using objects to mimic the sound. For example: Blow a whistle to sound like a cricket. Drop dried beans to sound like hail. If you can, record your nature sounds. Play or perform your sounds for a friend to see if she can guess what it is.

OR

- ☐ **Create a nature playlist.** Create a playlist out of at least five songs to listen to when you're doing something fun outdoors. Choose your theme: Slow music for relaxing outdoors? Uplifting, steady rhythms for a hike? Or fast, upbeat tunes for a run? Then create nature-themed cover art for your playlist.

FOR MORE FUN: Create a playlist of songs that have lyrics about nature in them. Share it with friends and family.

OR

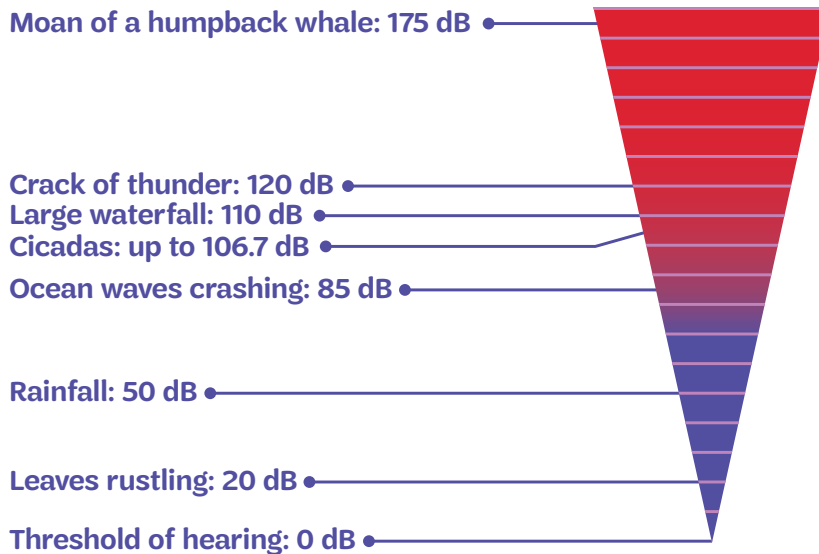
- ☐ **Write a rap or poem inspired by nature.** Write about something in nature that moves you, like saving an endangered species, preserving a trail, or your experience on a whitewater rafting or a ski trip. Share your rap or poem with friends and family in an outdoor setting.

FOR MORE FUN: Have a friend add music or beats to your rap or poem.



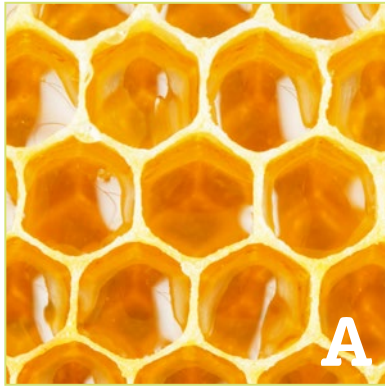
NATURAL SOUNDS

People often associate nature with peace and quiet—but the outdoors can get pretty noisy, even without human-made sounds in the mix! A decibel is the unit used to measure sound, from absolute quiet beginning at 0 dB. Anything above 85dB can cause hearing loss. Compare that level with a soft whisper at 40 dB, a car horn at 110 dB, and a jet engine at 120 dB. Here are some of the sounds you could hear outdoors:

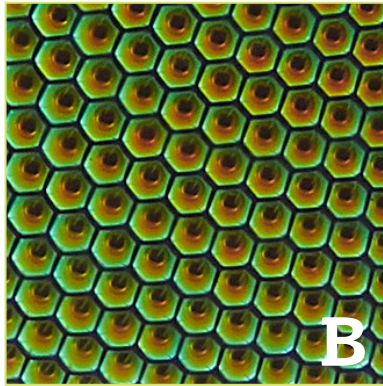


NATURE'S ARTISTRY

Test your knowledge of natural design by identifying the patterns below.



A



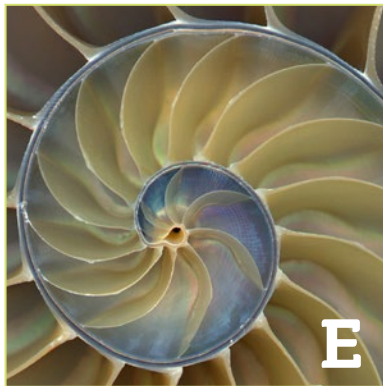
B



C



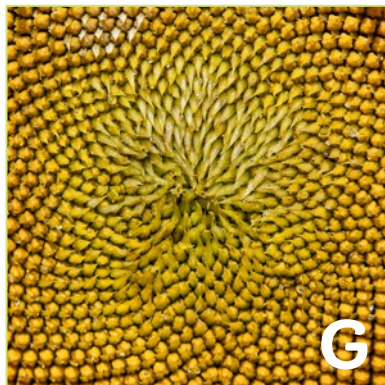
D



E



F



G



H



I

ANSWERS: A: Honeycomb B: Fly's eye C: Dandelion D: Butterfly wing
E: Inside of a nautilus shell F: Peacock feathers G: Center of a sunflower
H: Snake's skin I: Center of an orange

STEP

4 Be a nature photographer

Nature photographers take pictures not only because their subjects are beautiful but also to remind people to appreciate and respect the environment. When you portray nature through a different perspective, it opens up a new way of thinking. Explore nature and create your art through the lens of a camera.

CHOICES—DO ONE:

- ☐ **Photograph patterns and textures in nature.** Find ones that appeal to you, such as the swirls on a butterfly wing, the shape of a petal, the veins on a leaf, the pattern of a snowflake, or the spines of a cactus. Then create a showcase of your work. It could be a digital album you can share, or make prints of your photos to put in a collage. Be creative!

OR

- ☐ **Create an outdoor photo journal.** Take a walk or hike with a friend and take picture breaks along the way: Shoot photos of wildlife, landscapes, flowers, trees, pathways, signs—whatever you see. Then print your photos to paste in a journal, or upload them to your computer for a digital journal. Write fun and descriptive captions to go with each photo and share them with friends or family.

OR

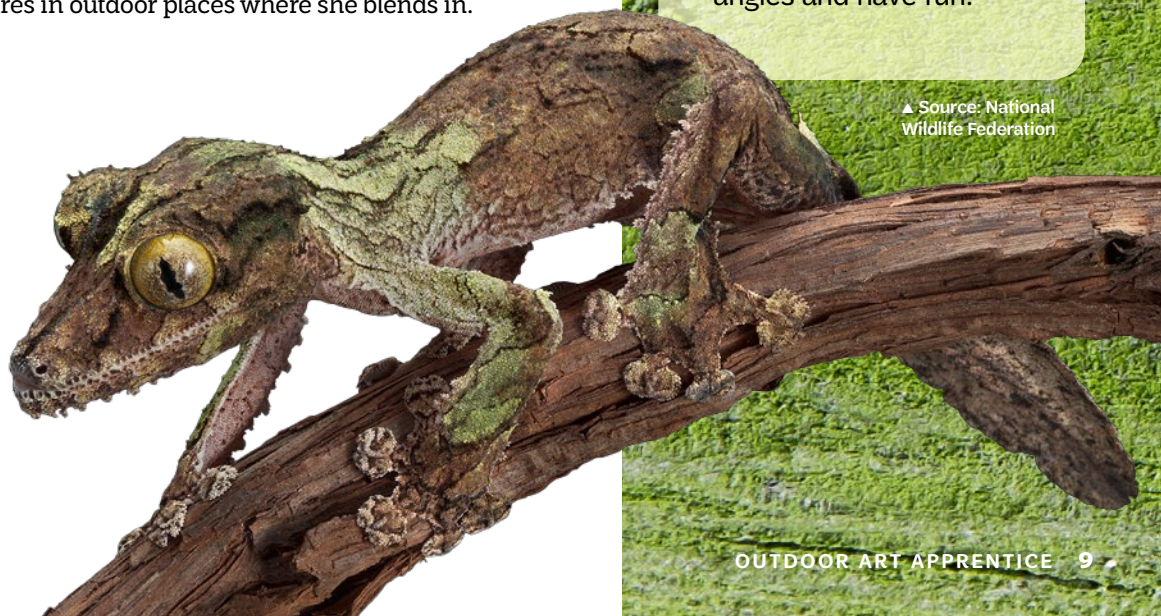
- ☐ **Photograph camouflage.** Animals and insects use colors and patterns from their surroundings to hide and protect themselves. Find and photograph things that have blended into their surroundings. It might be an owl in a tree. A garden lizard. A frog. A grasshopper. If you can't find something in nature, draw or use fabric swatches of camouflage patterns, then photograph them outdoors in similar surroundings. Make a presentation of your camouflage project to share for your troop, family, or friends.

FOR MORE FUN: Have a friend wear something with a camouflage pattern, then take pictures in outdoor places where she blends in.

Tips from nature photographers:

- ▶ **Keep it sharp:** Be sure you're in a stable position. Hold the camera steady with two hands, bring your elbows to the sides of your chest, and gently squeeze.
- ▶ **Capture a scene:** Move until your subject is off center in your viewfinder to make the photo more interesting.
- ▶ **Turn on your flash:** On a cloudy day, it can fill in shadows and brighten your subject.
- ▶ **Get down to nature's level:** For flowers and insects, shoot low to get the detail.
- ▶ **Be alert:** To find small critters to photograph, listen for soft sounds, and look carefully behind rocks and under logs.
- ▶ **Respect nature:** Don't trample flowers, disturb nests, or bother insects.
- ▶ **Take lots of photos:** Experiment with different angles and have fun!

▲ Source: National Wildlife Federation



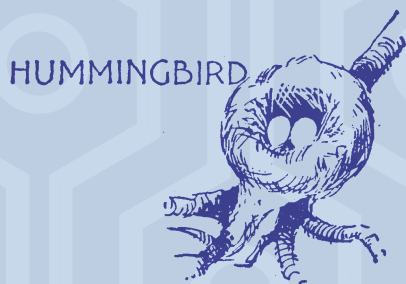
Nature's Architects



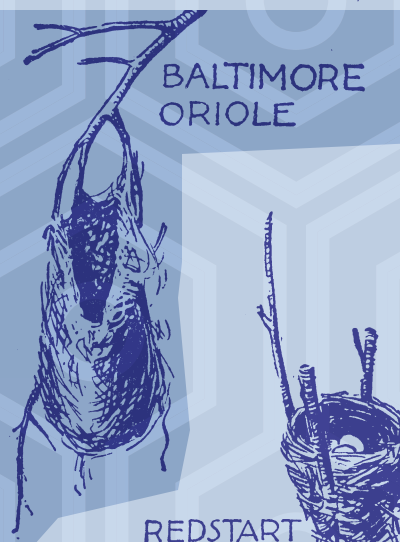
RED WINGED
BLACKBIRD



BARN
SWALLOW



HUMMINGBIRD



BALTIMORE
ORIOLE

REDSTART

Girl Scout Handbook, 1940

STEP 5 Design with nature

Bees create honeycomb—one of nature's most modern-looking and functional designs—by depositing wax into hexagon shapes to help store their honey. Nature's shapes and patterns have inspired architects for centuries, like the ancient Greeks and Romans who built columns fashioned after trees. Explore ideas for design by taking a close-up look at nature.

CHOICES—DO ONE:

- ☐ **Make something that interacts with weather.** Create something that works with the weather, then put it outside to watch it in action. This could be a suncatcher that catches the sun's light, a sundial to tell the sun's position, a pinwheel that spins outside in the wind, or a windsock to hang outside to show wind direction. See the next page for examples of things you can make.

OR

- ☐ **Be a nature architect.** Observe your natural surroundings and design something you can live in or that provides shelter. You can draw your design on paper, or if you can, make your structure! For example, if you're in the snow, build an igloo, snow fort, or snow cave. (Tip: Use a loaf pan to shape bricks for an igloo.) In a backyard, forest, or desert setting, collect fallen twigs and leaves to build a hut or yurt. Or take a walk around your neighborhood and sketch all the geometric designs you can find on plants, flowers, trees, and structures.

FOR MORE FUN: Design a miniature golf course in the snow. Smooth the snow in an area that will be your golf range. Bury empty aluminum cans under the snow's surface for golf holes. Tee off! Just don't forget to collect the cans when you're finished playing.

OR

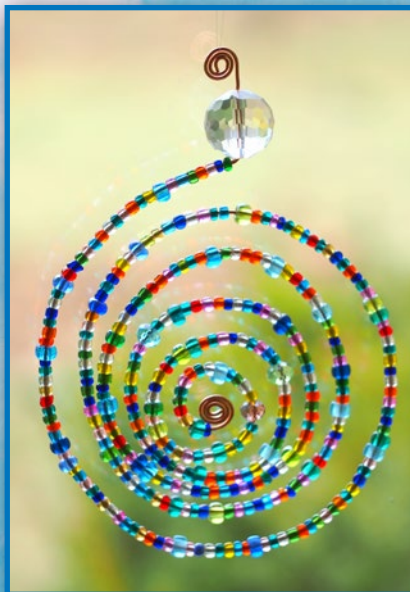
- ☐ **Design—and grow—a square-foot garden.** Design a garden to plant a bunch of different types of herbs, plants or vegetables in one square-foot area! One way is to plant seeds in a raised planter box or plastic bin divided into 12-inch squares rather than straight into the soil. Then design your grid for what to plant in each square: herbs in one section and vegetables in the other? Or plant by color—red on one side, green on the other?



ART POWERED BY SUN & WIND

► Suncatcher

Thread glass beads on to copper wire, form a coil shape (or any other shape you like!), and hang in a sunny spot to see how it catches the light.



▼ Sundial

Decorate a round piece of wood, hammer a stick in the center, then let it sit under the sun and watch the stick's shadow shift.



▲ Windsock

Cut the top and bottom from a 2-liter plastic bottle to make a tube that's open on both ends. Add strips of plastic—a large garbage bag works well—hang outside, and watch to see which direction the wind is blowing.



▲ Pinwheel

Make one from plastic, wood, or metal to plant in a garden.



Going on a Journey? Do some badge work along the way.

On the *Breathe* Journey, you learn how to focus your senses outdoors to hear, smell, and feel everything around you. You'll read about artists inspired by air, like a playwright who wrote a science-fiction play or a Girl Scout who created an illustrated guide to local birds. You'll also make a playlist of songs that inspire you to care about air—a great way to do Step 3 of this badge. On your airy journey, you'll find lots of ways to create outdoor art for this badge!

Now that I've earned this badge, I can give service by:

- Working with younger girls on an outdoor art project
- Creating a presentation about art at national parks to share with others
- Making something outdoors that has a message about the environment

I'm inspired to:



Special thanks to our council and volunteer badge co-creation team:

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UPC 64015





Outdoor Art Expert

Get ready to become an outdoor artist as you connect with nature and create something helpful to the environment. You'll learn how to see nature with an artist's eye and find ways to express yourself—from photography and painting to music, jewelry design, and architecture. Go outside to find art—it doesn't just exist within the four walls of a museum.

Steps

1. Explore art outdoors
2. Make something!
3. Create or share music inspired by nature
4. Capture nature digitally
5. Design outdoors

Purpose

When I've earned this badge, I will have learned how to create art outdoors with a focus on the environment.



"Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts."

—Rachel Carson

Tips Before Takeoff

Staying safe will make earning this badge more fun, so before you step outside, check out this list:

- ▶ **Don't go alone.** Before you head out, make sure to let an adult know where you'll be going and for how long. Use the Buddy System and team up with a friend.
- ▶ **Dress the part.** Sunny out? Don't forget the sunscreen! Cold out? Zip up! Wear protective clothing—like a jacket, a hat, and gloves. Hiking a trail? Wear hiking shoes.
- ▶ **Pack for safety.** Bring a backpack with a reusable bottle of water. Optional: a first aid kit with bandages and antibiotic cream, a whistle, a flashlight with batteries, and a camera.
- ▶ **Stay connected.** Bring a cell phone in case you need to contact someone for assistance. Make sure you have good reception.
- ▶ **Be aware of your surroundings.** Pay attention to where you're walking. Keep an eye out for signs, especially if you're hiking a trail that goes in different directions.



Every step has three choices. Do ONE choice to complete each step. Inspired? Do more!

STEP
1 Explore art outdoors

Creative inspiration can spring from the things you experience, so head outside to take in the sights and sounds of the great outdoors. Take a hike, observe a cloud, lie on a hammock, and write in your journal or draw sketches. The ideas you collect will become your guide as you create for each step.

CHOICES—DO ONE:

☐ **Find at least three or more public artworks outdoors.** Look outdoors for art that people enjoy—it could be statues, sculptures, murals, plaques, billboards, a fountain, landscaped gardens, or unusually designed buildings. Take a journal and write about or sketch the art and where you found it.

OR -----

☐ **Visit at least one exhibit of outdoor environmental art.** Art can excite and educate others about ways to respect and preserve the natural world. Look for environmental art in a museum, gallery, online, or outside in your community. It might be a garden planted over a landfill, a building with a grass roof, a gravel pit converted into an amphitheater, a sculpture made from recycled materials, a wall mural with an eco theme, a photo exhibit highlighting an environmental issue, or a wildlife statue in a park. Take a video of what you see and share the artist's message with others.

OR -----

☐ **Create with a nature artist.** Seek out an artist who uses nature in her art: She might be an art teacher, family friend, or person you meet at a craft fair, community center, museum, or art gallery. She could be a landscape artist, a jeweler who uses natural objects, a “trash-to-treasure” sculptor, or a wildlife photographer. Spend time with her while she works, or ask her to come speak to your troop.

Find out where she gets materials and inspiration, what her process is for creating, and what impact she hopes her work will make. Ask her to show you her techniques, and make a work of art together.



Eco-Artist

Environmental art can also be known as eco-art, social sculpture, bio-art, recycled art, reclamation art, earth art, nature art, or crop art . . . it's any art that sends an environmental message. In 1982, Agnes Denes, considered one of the pioneers of environmental art, planted a two-acre wheat field in a landfill in lower Manhattan. She cleared the garbage, brought in 100 truckloads of dirt, planted golden wheat seed, and then ended up harvesting more than 1,000 pounds. Visitors carried seeds away from the field to plant in other parts of the world. Talk about a sustainable project!



Junk Raft

For years, marine conservationist Anna Cummins (pictured above), would see plastic bottles, bags, and other garbage scattered in the ocean. Finally, she had to act. In 2008, she helped build the *Junk Raft*, made from 15,000 plastic bottles, salvaged sailboat masts, and a cabin made from the reclaimed fuselage of a Cessna airplane. The 30-foot *Junk Raft* sailed from Long Beach, California, to Hawaii to raise awareness about the plastic trash problem. Not only does plastic release toxins and microscopic particles into the water, but birds and marine life can get caught in it, eat it, and choke on it. Consider this scary fact: After 88 days at sea, *none* of the raft's plastic bottles showed any signs of erosion.

Courtesy of Anna Cummins

STEP 2 Make something!

When you use nature as inspiration to create something, it's not just aesthetically pleasing but also sends a positive message. What you make allows others to appreciate—and explore—their relationship to nature.

CHOICES—DO ONE:

- ☐ **Design a piece of jewelry inspired by nature.** Go outside and find something in nature that moves you—maybe a sunset, ocean view, wildlife, or flowers—and then reproduce it by making something you can wear or give to a friend. Your nature inspiration might show up as a color you choose for a glass-beaded necklace, or in materials you pick for a braided bracelet.

OR

- ☐ **Find five things that do not belong in nature and create a collage or eco-art sculpture.** Take a hike on a trail, by a lake, or around your neighborhood to pick up trash—from candy wrappers and soda cans to discarded tires and plastic toys—and then create something. (Safety note: Always wear gloves when collecting items, and avoid anything sharp, like needles, or toxic, like paint cans.) You can plaster your findings into a sculpture, or glue them to canvas with pictures, drawings, and writing for a multimedia project. Name your art piece and include a brief description for what you want to say about preserving the environment, then display it for others at school, in a park office, or a community center.

OR

- ☐ **Make a print using a natural object or one inspired by nature.** You can use wood you have at your house or from a home-supply store to create a woodcut relief print by carving a design inspired by nature in a piece of wood, adding printer's ink to the wood and then pressing the paper onto the wood to make a print. You can make a screen print on a T-shirt or paper with the design you created. (See the next page for instructions.)



Embroidery Hoop Screen Printing

YOU WILL NEED

- 12" wooden embroidery hoop
- Sheer woven fabric (like organza or voile)*
- Your design (printed or drawn)
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Acrylic paint
- Paper plate
- Paint brushes
- Screen printing ink made for fabric
- Plastic spoon
- Stiff piece of plastic (a used or expired gift card works well)
- Fabric items to print on (T-shirts, dish towels, aprons, tote bags)
- Heavy paper or cardboard

*Sheer curtain panels work well—see if you can find them used at a thrift store or yard sale.



1. DESIGN AND TRANSFER:

Design the image to fit comfortably within the hoop.

- Secure the fabric between the embroidery hoops so the screen is taut. Trim the edges.
- Place your design under the hoop and trace onto the screen with pencil.

2. MAKE A MASK:

Keep ink from going through the screen except where you have your design.

- Squeeze paint onto a paper plate. Flip the screen over and paint all around your design. Let dry. Repeat on the other side.
- Hold the screen up to the light and look for light shining through the mask. Cover unwanted pinholes or gaps with paint, and allow to dry.



3. TEST PRINT:

Use a piece of scrap paper.

- Use a plastic spoon to spread printing ink across the top of the screen.
- Use a plastic card to squeegee the ink over the design, top to bottom. Scrape off excess ink and carefully lift the screen to see the print.

4. TOUCH UP:

Fill any unwanted holes in mask where ink leaked through.

- Clean the screen, allow it to dry, and fill the holes with paint.



5. PRINT RUN:

You're ready to go!

- To print on fabric, place a piece of cardboard under the item being printed (or inside, if it's a shirt or bag) to keep ink from bleeding through.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for heat setting the ink.





STEP 3 Create or share music inspired by nature

Throughout history, nature has played an important role in music—it influences the sounds and lyrics that artists create. Some artists also use music to communicate their desire to protect nature. Let the sounds of nature be your tool to compile—or make—your own music.

CHOICES—DO ONE:

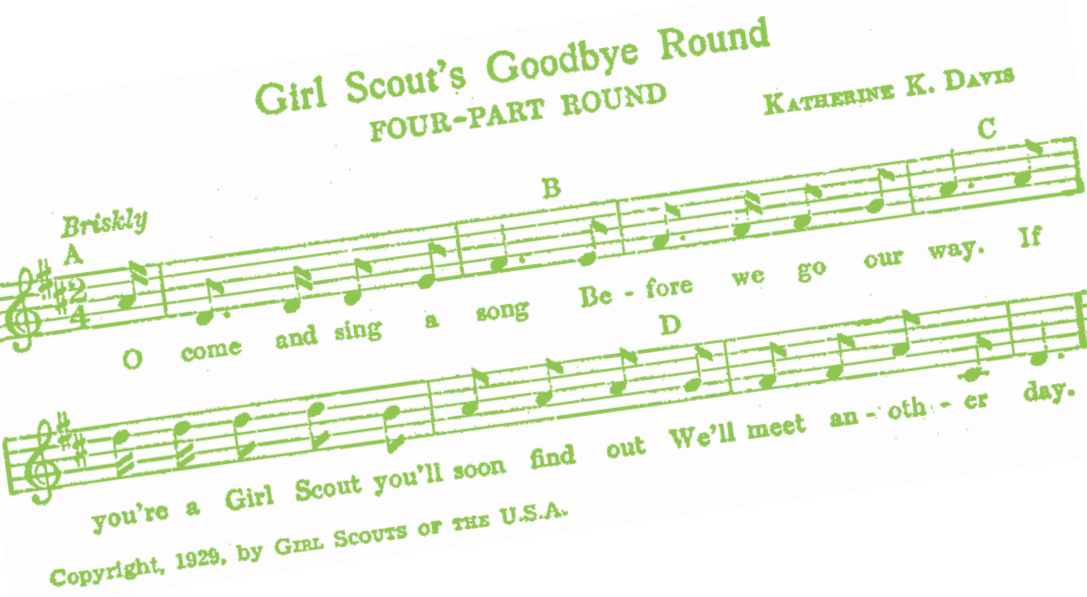
- ☐ **Produce a nature recording.** Record natural sounds (ocean waves, wind rustling through trees, insects buzzing), and human-made ones (a car honking, a jet flying overhead, an off-road vehicle, a person yelling, or the engine of a lawnmower or snowmobile) together. Then share with friends and family to see if they can detect the human-made sounds and the natural sounds.

OR

- ☐ **Create a DIY band for an outdoor performance.** Look inside and outside for objects that make sounds. Play percussion on a garbage can. Put coins in a covered can for a shaker. Fill drinking glasses with different levels of water and clink with a spoon. Take a soda bottle and blow inside it. Come up with your own ideas! Invite friends, family members, or younger girls to play the instruments outdoors. Record the sounds they make.

OR

- ☐ **Learn three camp songs about nature and teach them to younger girls.** Help keep the Girl Scout singing tradition alive for younger girls by teaching them three nature songs. You can find a song about nature or take a traditional Girl Scout song and change the lyrics to reflect nature. Make sure to include movements and animal sounds when you share the songs—it makes it easier to remember the lyrics, and who doesn't like to move to music? Take the girls outdoors to sing!



Best Filters for Nature Photos

Polarizer: Reduces glare in sky, water, trees and leaves

Neutral density (ND): Extends exposure time; good for waterfalls, rivers, and oceans

Graduated Neutral Density (GND): Controls strong lights in landscapes (like the sun)

UV/Haze: Improves clarity and protects lens

Warming/Cooling: Changes white balance (restores color) in landscapes or underwater



No Filter



Circular Polarizer Filter

STEP 4 Capture nature digitally

When nature photographers take pictures of plants, wildlife, and landscapes, it might mean sitting for hours to snap a blue jay taking flight or being on high alert during a storm in order to capture the instant lightning strikes.

Nature photographers may experience daring adventure and exotic travel, but it starts with technical skills and an eye to shoot nature's subjects. Try out a different technique for taking pictures outdoors.



CHOICES—DO ONE:

- ☐ **Create a time-lapse project of a scene outdoors.** Take pictures of an object outdoors in a single frame at a time over a period of time—a day, week, or month. It might be clouds in the sky or plants and flowers growing. Then load the images on a computer or use an app to make a time-lapse video. Or print out three of your images and put them together side-by-side to create a triptych.


FOR MORE FUN: Print out your time-lapse photos and make them into a flipbook.

OR

- ☐ **Experiment with perspective in nature photography.** Camera filters are pieces of glass that go over the lens to help you take great pictures outdoors by reducing the glare or adding color and depth to an image. With a regular camera, filters assist in taking nature shots. (See Best Filters for Nature Photos on this page.) If you have a smartphone camera, experiment by using different filters offered, such as noir, process, chrome, or black and white. Play around with different modes like flash or high dynamic range (HDR). Or find an app that can help you shoot panoramic, make your photos look vintage, or assemble them into a collage. How does it change the look and feel of what you shot?

OR

- ☐ **Create an outdoor music video using a song that reminds you of nature.** Find a song you like with a nature theme or lyrics about the outdoors—what images do you see when you listen to it? Jot down ideas, then head outdoors to film scenes to go with your song. Go online to find out how to edit your video footage and add your song as the soundtrack. When it's ready, share it with friends and family.



ANNA ATKINS was born in England in 1799. She was given the opportunity to learn more about science than most women of that time because her father was a scientist. In her early 20s, she made engravings of shells to illustrate a book of her father's. As she grew older, she pursued a career in botany, also known as plant science. She became interested in early forms of photography as a time-saving way to capture botanical specimens. She was best known for her cyanotype prints—using the sun to make photograms by laying objects directly on light-sensitized paper. Her book *Photographs of British Algae*, published in 1843, was the first book to be photographically printed and illustrated.

Cystoseira fibrosa.



For More FUN:

Talk to local artists and community members about creating a mural in an outdoor public area, like a park, garden, community center, or school. Remember—you'll need to get permission from the property owner before creating your mural.

STEP 5 Design outdoors

In step 3, you learned how environmental art helps educate people about the natural world. Now think of this same idea on a grander scale. Architects and engineers often take cues from nature for their designs. For example, one of the world's largest buildings in Taiwan is shaped like tall bamboo. A stadium in China looks like a bird's nest. An Iranian architect designed a temple that resembles a lotus flower. In Dubai, a group of human-made islands form the shape of a palm tree. Try your hand at designing something transformative outdoors.

CHOICES—DO ONE:

- ☐ **Design an outdoor maze or labyrinth.** A puzzle **maze** has multiple paths, including wrong turns and dead ends, but only one way to get from entrance to goal. No matter how complicated, a **labyrinth** has a single winding path without choices. Pick one to design, and draw up your sketch. Then use pieces of rope or stones to replicate your design outdoors—maybe in your backyard or at a park. If you're near a beach, use a stick to draw your design in the sand. Invite others to walk through it.



MAZE



LABYRINTH

OR

- ☐ **Create lighting for an outdoor space.** Find a temporary space in your backyard, a park, or a playground to create a light show for friends and family. Make more than one lighting treatment—for example, paint Mason jars with glow-in-the-dark paint. Hang holiday lights on trees or in the shape of a peace sign, heart, or trefoil.* Drop switch-on candles (battery-operated or LED lights) in bottles or hurricane lamps—or hang them from trees with ribbons. Tape colored cellophane over flashlights and position them to shine on trees. Landscape artists often use lighting to showcase beautiful plants, flowers, and trees. Can you think of ways your lighting can do the same?

FOR MORE FUN: Add music to your light show.

*You will need permission from the municipal parks department or other relevant agency to create your outdoor space in a park or playground. Please also refer to Girl Scouts Safety Activity Checkpoints on recreational tree climbing.

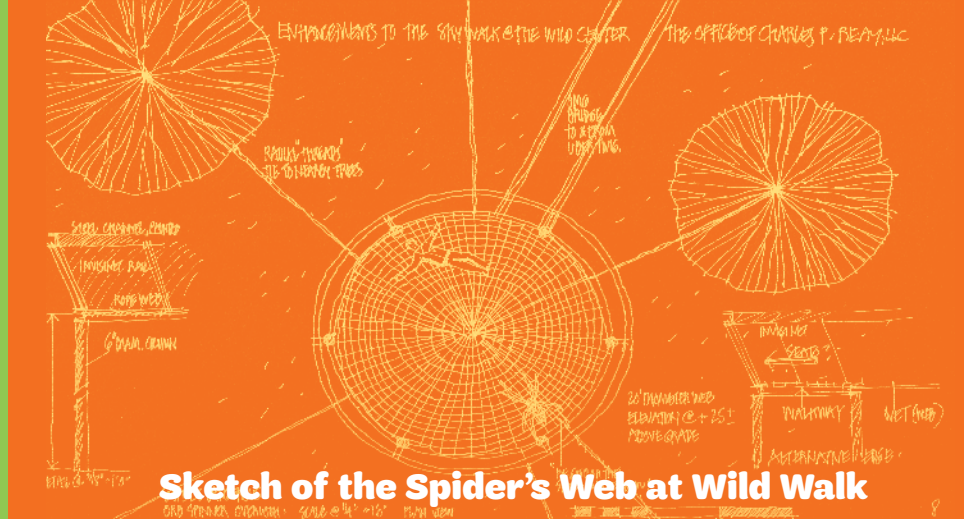
OR

- ☐ **Design a nature-based art mural for the outdoors.** Murals are human-made images on walls or other flat surfaces. Take a walk outside to get inspired, then sketch a design or go on your computer to create a mural that focuses on something in nature. It could be the night sky, a forest, or a message about the environment. If you can, sketch your mural image on a chalkboard, whiteboard, plywood, or a large canvas to see how it would look.

A Treetop Trail

Wild Walk is an elevated walkway built into the canopy of trees in New York's Adirondack Mountains so that visitors can see the forest at a bird's-eye view. The trail of bridges and platforms begins at ground level and climbs as high as 40 feet. Along the way, the designers put a four-story twig tree house, a spider's web, and an over-sized bald eagle's nest at the highest point. The tallest tree in the Adirondacks is the white pine, measuring 160 feet—taller than the Statue of Liberty. What can you design to help transform our experiences with nature?

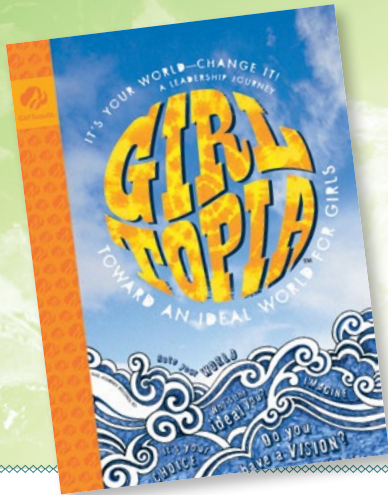
Sketch and photos courtesy of The Wild Center



Model of the Spider's Web



The Spider's Web in Action!



Going on a Journey? Do some badge work along the way.

On the *GIRLtopia* Journey, you earn a Visionary Award by turning your vision for a better future into art using a medium you choose and creating a project with a message. In this badge, you find out what it takes to be an eco-artist and make something to help others appreciate and explore their relationship to nature. Combine the skills and inspiration from this badge to make your *GIRLtopia* experience even more meaningful.

Now that I've earned this badge, I can give service by:

- Coming up with an art project inspired by the outdoors and holding a workshop to show younger girls how to do it
- Creating a presentation about how environmental art can help make a difference, and sharing it with others
- Working on an eco-art project in my school or community

I'm inspired to:

Special thanks to our council and volunteer badge co-creation team:

Tracey Bunch and Susan Groff,
Girl Scouts of Eastern PA

Deb King and Chrissy Turner, Girl Scouts
of the Green and White Mountains

Lorena Kirschner, Girl Scouts
of Northern NJ

Kristi Thunker and Megan Brink,
Girl Scouts—Dakota Horizons

Scarlett Webb, Girl Scouts of Western NJ

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“You can’t use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.”

—Maya Angelou



Outdoor Art Master

Whether you’re new to Girl Scouts or have been in it forever, you’ve probably spent a lot of time exploring the outdoors and a lot of time making art. This is your chance to bring art and the outdoors together—to get inspired by the beauty in nature and use that inspiration to get creative. Roll up your sleeves and dive in!

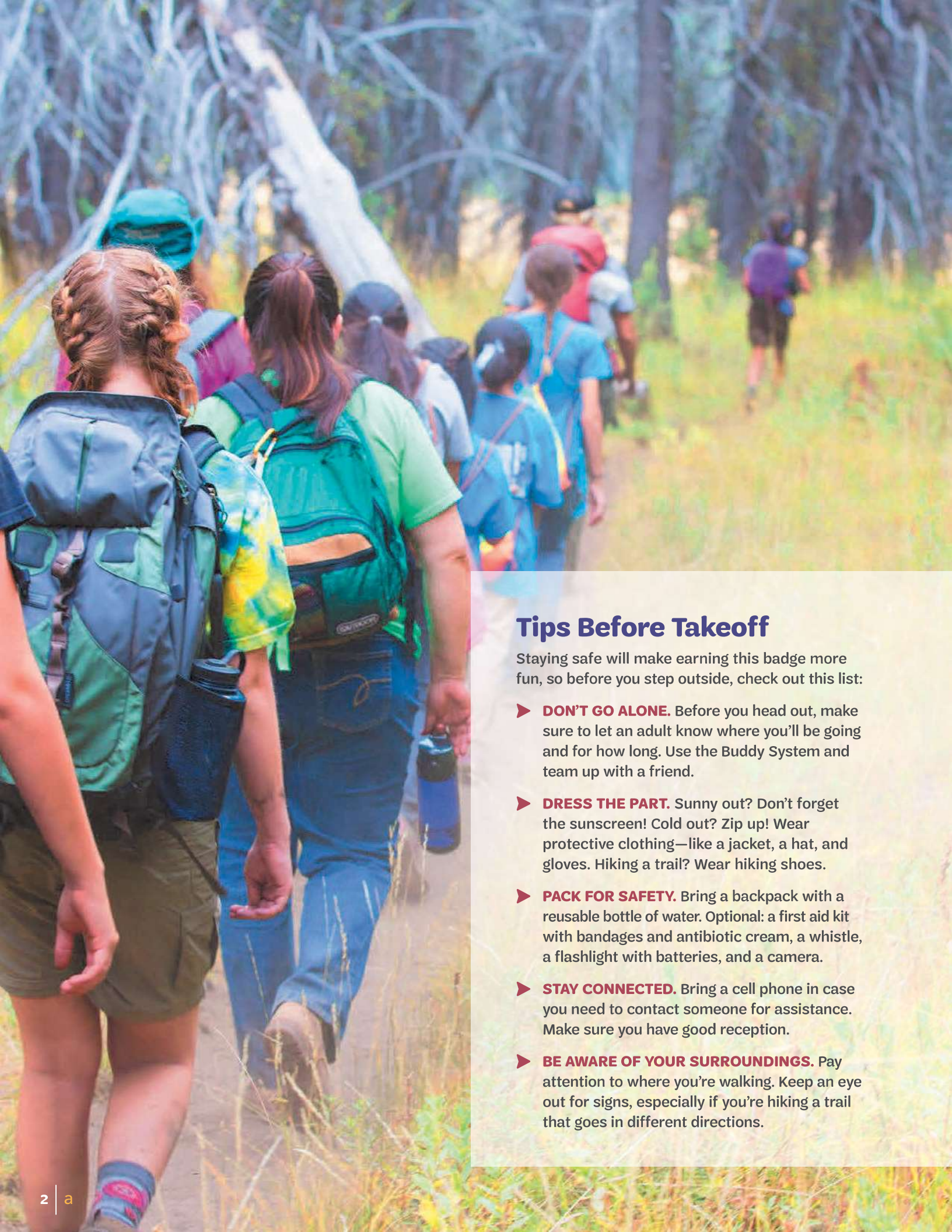
Steps

1. Explore outdoor art
2. Make something!
3. Find music in nature
4. Be a nature photographer
5. Design with nature

Purpose

When I’ve earned this badge, I will have explored nature and created several different kinds of outdoor-themed art.





Tips Before Takeoff

Staying safe will make earning this badge more fun, so before you step outside, check out this list:

- ▶ **DON'T GO ALONE.** Before you head out, make sure to let an adult know where you'll be going and for how long. Use the Buddy System and team up with a friend.
- ▶ **DRESS THE PART.** Sunny out? Don't forget the sunscreen! Cold out? Zip up! Wear protective clothing—like a jacket, a hat, and gloves. Hiking a trail? Wear hiking shoes.
- ▶ **PACK FOR SAFETY.** Bring a backpack with a reusable bottle of water. Optional: a first aid kit with bandages and antibiotic cream, a whistle, a flashlight with batteries, and a camera.
- ▶ **STAY CONNECTED.** Bring a cell phone in case you need to contact someone for assistance. Make sure you have good reception.
- ▶ **BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS.** Pay attention to where you're walking. Keep an eye out for signs, especially if you're hiking a trail that goes in different directions.

STEP

1 Explore outdoor art

Every step has three choices. Do ONE choice to complete each step. Inspired? Do more.

When people think of art, they often think of paintings hanging on the walls of museums first. Museums are one great place to view artwork, but from topiary sculptures to monuments in public parks, art is everywhere! Bring artwork and the outdoors together and see art in a new way.

CHOICES—DO ONE:

- ☐ **Make art indoors and outdoors.** This choice is done in two parts, one at the start of the badge and one at the end. At the start of your badge work, create a black-and-white piece of art indoors. (It doesn't have to be a picture—it could be a photo collage, sculpture, movie, or any other type of visual art you can think of!) At the end of the badge, take your supplies outside and re-create the piece of art using the colors you see around you in nature.

OR

- ☐ **Showcase art outdoors.** Find an outdoor space that is naturally beautiful to you, and get permission from the owner to use the space as a temporary art gallery. (You will need permission from the municipal parks department or other relevant agency to create your outdoor space in a park or playground.) Host a show and invite younger girls and community members to see the artwork. You could show projects that were all made by you (maybe include art from your younger self, too), or also include work made by other girls if you have their permission. You can do this step last, and include your finished badge projects.

FOR MORE FUN: Record an audio “walk through”—like the kind used at some museums—that people can listen to with headphones as they view the show.

OR

- ☐ **Talk to an artist.** Find a woman artist whose art is influenced by the outdoors. She could be an art teacher or even an older girl you know—and remember, art comes in all shapes and sizes! Talk to her about her process and her artwork. Afterwards, you can either record your response to the experience in some way—by journaling, writing a poem, or making an audio recording—or make an art piece of your own, inspired by her work.

Leave No Trace

Remember to practice “Leave No Trace” as you create your outdoor art!

- Know Before You Go
- Stick to Trails
- Trash Your Trash
- Leave It As You Find It
- Keep Wildlife Wild
- Respect Others



When this illustration appeared in an issue of *American Girl* in 1929, it was in black-and-white. Here, some color has been added. How do you think it changes the image?



Try this square lashing technique

STEP 2 Make something!

Whether you're a DIY queen or all thumbs with a glue gun, you can find craft-making inspiration outdoors. Make a project you can keep for yourself, or give as a gift. Don't worry about making it perfect—just have fun!

CHOICES—DO ONE:

- ☐ **Make something wearable.** Try your hand at making something to wear that interacts with the outdoors—or changes when you go outside and expose it to the elements. You could make clothes or pieces of jewelry that change color in the sun, use LEDs to make light-up shoes for night walks . . . just get inspired by the outdoors and let your imagination go.

OR

- ☐ **Build a kite or solar balloon.** On a windy day, head outside and take some time to look at how the environment is affected by the wind. Use your observations to help design and build a kite or solar balloon. You can follow instructions you find on your own, or follow the directions on the next page to make a traditional kite.

For More FUN: Hold a kite-flying competition with your Girl Scout friends.

OR

- ☐ **Make a lashing.** Build an outdoor sculpture by lashing sticks or small branches together. Lashings are a practical way to join two objects together, but you can get creative with them, too! You might build a giant sculpture with your Girl Scout friends, or you can each make your own and then compare them.

Junior Girl Scout Handbook, 1969



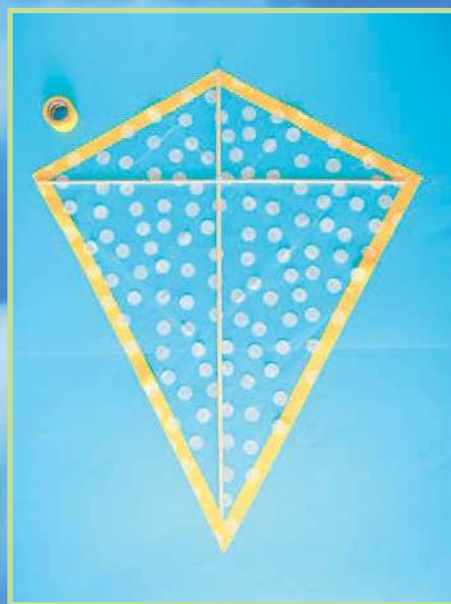
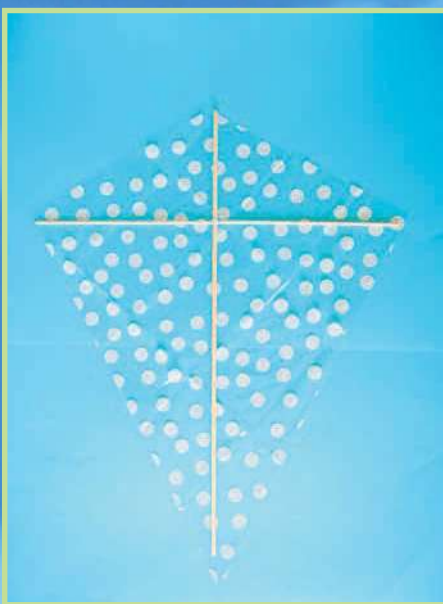
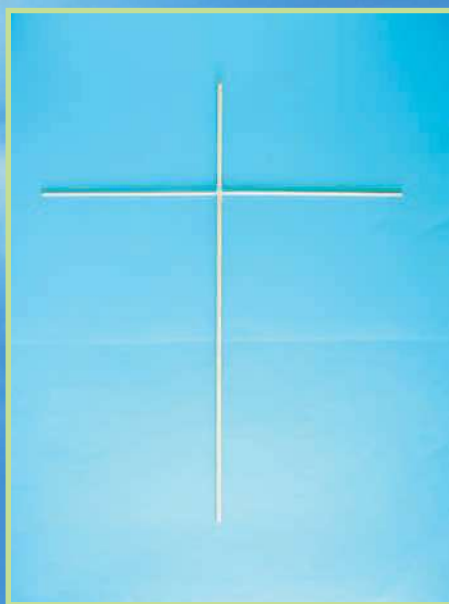
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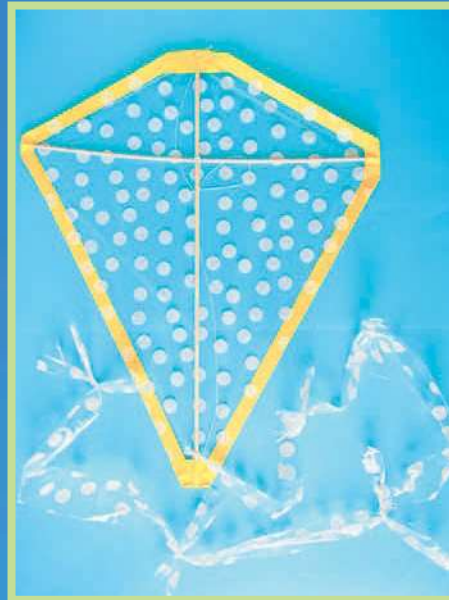
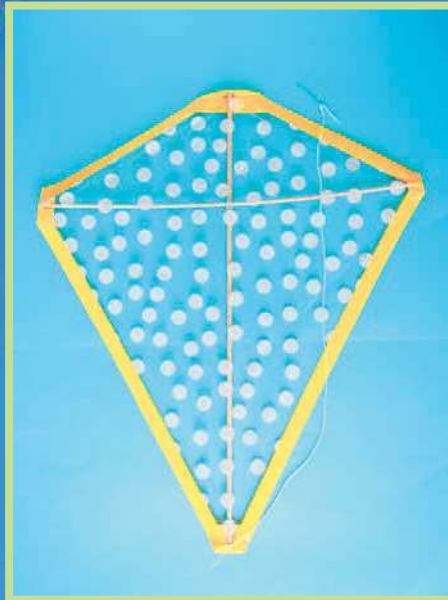
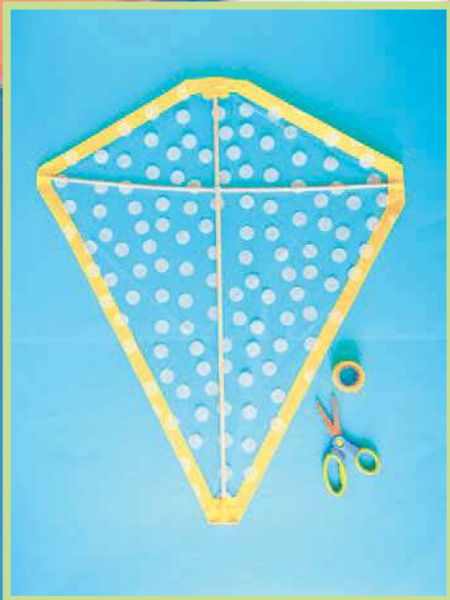


Follow these instructions to make a traditional diamond-shaped kite.

You will need:

- Large piece of plastic from cut from a plastic bag (at least 27" square)—we used a bag with polka dots
- 24" x 1/4" craft dowel or straight lightweight stick (if you use a craft dowel, you will probably need to trim a longer length for both sticks)
- 20" x 3/16" craft dowel or straight lightweight stick
- Craft knife
- Electrical tape
- Needle or toothpick
- Lightweight string or twine

1. Place the shorter stick 6" from the top of the vertical stick, horizontally.
2. Secure the sticks tightly together with string. The sticks should be at right angles to each other.
3. Place the kite frame onto the plastic.
4. Cut the plastic around the kite frame into a diamond shape that's an inch larger than the frame.
5. Lay a piece of electrical tape along each edge of the plastic.
6. Fold the top and bottom corners of the plastic over the frame and secure with tape.
7. Repeat on the side corners.
8. Use a needle or toothpick to make two small holes in the top and bottom corners of the kite, on either side of the long stick. 



9. Cut a piece of string 28" long. Tie one end through top holes on the smooth side of the plastic (the front side without the frame) and the other end through the bottom holes. (This string is called the bridle.)

10. Make a loop from a 7"-long string.

11. Thread the loop tightly through itself onto the string (bridle) on the front of the kite about a third from the top. (This is called the bridle point.) The loop should slide up and down the bridle string to help you find the best angle for flying.

12. Cut 2"-wide strips from the plastic bag leftovers (or other plastic bags). Tie the strips together to make a tail that's at least 6' long, and tape or tie it to the bottom of your kite.

13. Play with the length of the tail to help its stability in flight.



STEP 3 Find music in nature

Visual art (like painting and sculpture) is just one type of art—music is art, too! Find your inner musician with this step.

CHOICES—DO ONE:

- ☐ **Design a soundtrack.** Think of your favorite place to walk—possibly a hiking trail at a park or at camp—and create a downloadable soundtrack for people to listen to while they walk. You could include narration about the history of the space and the kinds of plants or wildlife they might see, nature sounds, poetry, or music. (Remind your listeners to always keep one ear headphone-free for safety!) When your soundtrack is ready, take the walk once without the recording and once with it. How did the soundtrack change the experience? Which walk did you prefer?



OR

- ☐ **Turn nature into music.** Record different kinds of outdoor sounds from your area (such as birdsongs, crunching leaves, insects, or running water). Then mix and layer your sounds to create a song or composition.

OR

- ☐ **Build a musical instrument.** Use items from nature to make a multitoned musical instrument. You might use a gourd to make a stringed instrument or bamboo to make a flute.

For More FUN: Film your process and make a how-to video for other girls.



Careers to Explore

Interested in art and the outdoors? Here are some careers you might consider:

- Architect
- Landscape designer
- Children's book illustrator
- Urban planner
- Geologist
- Theme park engineer
- Science writer
- Art therapist
- Wetlands scientist
- Poet
- Wildlife photographer
- Archeologist
- Jewelry designer
- Cartographer
- Environmental engineer

More to Explore

Earth as Art

Most photographers do not have access to satellite cameras, but that hasn't stopped them from manipulating satellite imagery to create their own art. One artist spent several days painting and repainting hearts on the ground in Brazil. After the area was photographed by satellites each day, the artist put the pictures together to make a GIF that looked like flashing hearts. NASA has also put together collections of spectacular satellite photos of Earth. Do you think those photographs are art? Why or why not?

STEP

4 Be a nature photographer

Photography and video are a great way to create outdoor art without disturbing the environment. Head outdoors with a camera (a cell phone camera will work just fine) and see nature in a new way.

CHOICES—DO ONE:

- ☐ **Make a digital diary.** You may have kept a written journal in the past (or maybe you do now), but have you ever tried a visual one? Create a visual representation of the outdoor spaces in your life over a period of time—maybe a few days or a few weeks—using photos or videos, or a mix of the two.

For More FUN: Include your Girl Scout friends in your project, and extend it over the course of a year so you can see how the changing seasons affect your project. Then make copies of the finished work for your friends.

OR

- ☐ **Inspire change.** Documentaries and photographs can be a great way to use art as a call to action. Dive into a local environmental issue that's important to you by creating a documentary film or photo series about it, making sure to include ways for people to help. Create an event where you can showcase your film or photos to educate people about your issue.

OR

- ☐ **Find a new view.** Look at satellite photos from your area and around the world. How does it change the way you see the space? Next, take your own pictures outdoors from unusual perspectives. You might lie underneath a tree to photograph its underside, or view a flower garden from above. Share your photos with family or friends.

For More FUN: Research photographers who used their craft to educate the world about a particular place, animal, flower, or tree.

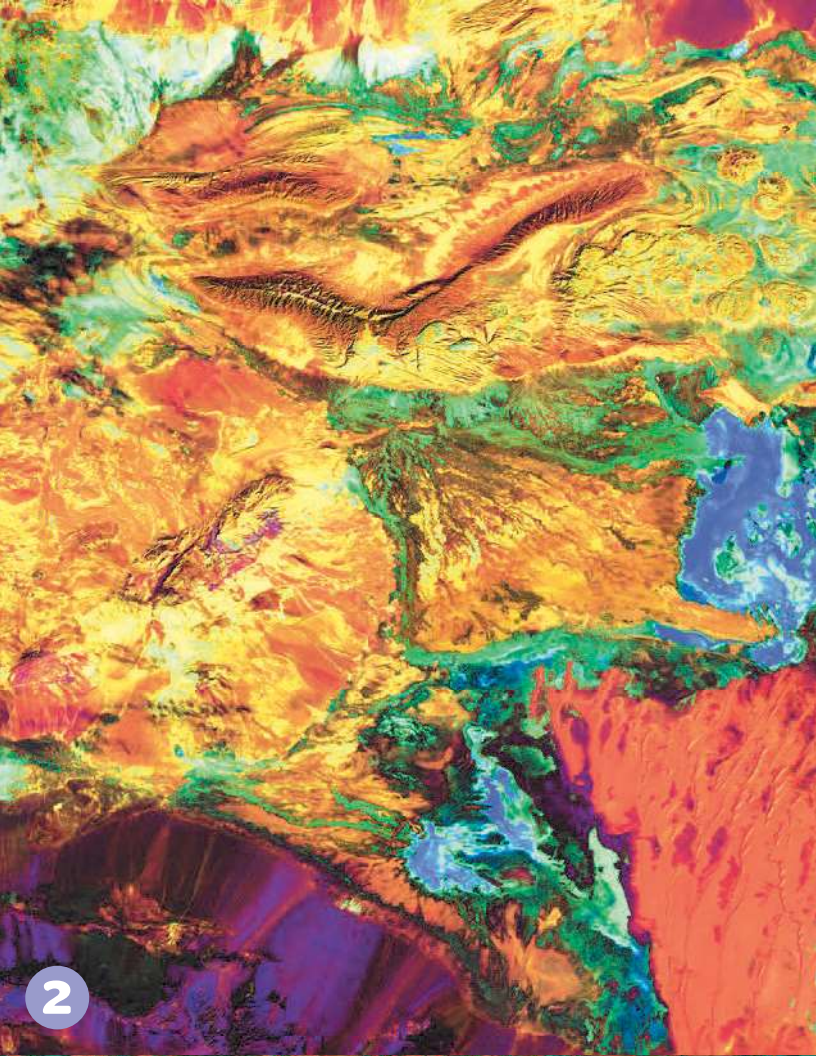
Where on the planet are these photos from?

- 1 Remarkable interplay of light and cloud in the Canadian Rockies
- 2 Iran's largest desert, the Dasht-e Kavir, or Great Salt Desert
- 3 Northern Arizona, where the parched Painted Desert adjoins Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest
- 4 The Mississippi River south of Memphis, Tennessee, on the border between Arkansas and Mississippi

Satellite images from the Earth Resources Observation and Science Center, part of the U.S. Geological Survey. False color has been applied to satellite images to bring out details invisible to the human eye.



1



2



3



4



STEP 5 Design with nature

When art is displayed outdoors, it works together with nature—it can enhance the beauty of a landscape or bring people's attention to an issue that's important to the artist. Work with your surroundings to design something new.

CHOICES—DO ONE:

- ☐ **Design a landscape.** Research sustainable landscaping and find a place in your community that could benefit from a new or updated landscape. (A garden filled with flowers that need lots of water in a drought-prone area, for example.) You might talk to a landscaper in your area and look to their landscapes for inspiration. Then come up with your own design for a landscape that would add to the beauty of an area without causing harm to the environment.

For More FUN: Take the next step—put your plan into action!

OR

- ☐ **Design a treasure hunt.** Geocaching is a type of high-tech treasure hunting game. Players use an app or a GPS receiver to follow clues to a geocache, or hidden treasure box. (You can read more at www.geocaching.com or www.navicache.com.) Design your own “geo art”—this means that the locations of hidden clues (or caches) will make a picture or design when viewed on a map. Make sure to follow the Leave No Trace principles as you create your design.

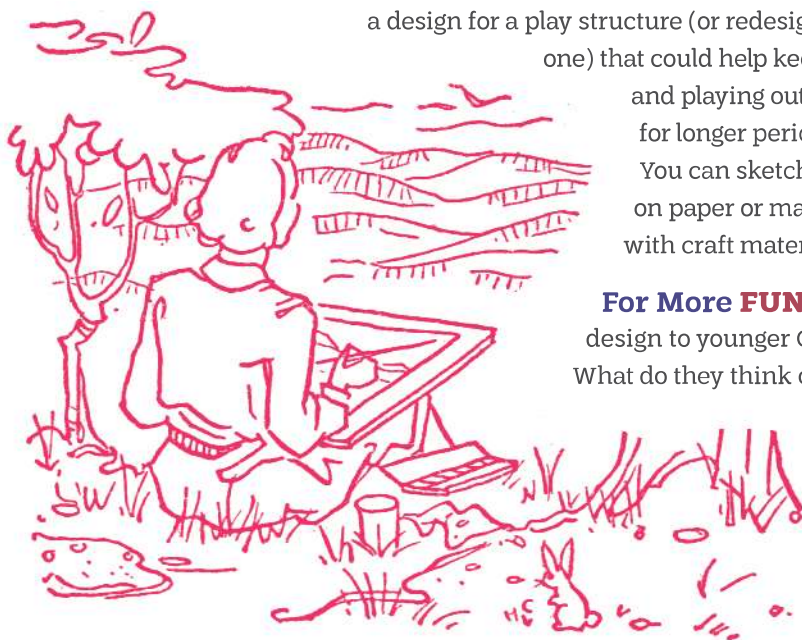
OR

- ☐ **Design a space for play.** Spend some time at an outdoor playground with younger girls. Which play structures are the most popular? What could be added or changed on the playground to improve it? Create a design for a play structure (or redesign an existing one) that could help keep kids active

and playing outdoors—safely—for longer periods of time.

You can sketch your design on paper or make a 3-D model with craft materials.

For More FUN: Show your design to younger Girl Scouts. What do they think of your idea?



The Science of Play

Playgrounds are a lot of fun, of course, but they might be more important than you realize. Today's kids spend less time playing than any generation before them, and they're not just missing out on physical activity—though that's important, too. Research shows that active play with other kids also helps to teach collaboration, creativity, and empathy. It can be especially difficult for kids in economically challenged areas to find safe places to play. Several nonprofit organizations help build playgrounds in these areas. Interested? Go online to find out more.



Going on a Journey? Do some badge work along the way.

On the *BLISS: Live It! Give It!* Journey, you explore your strengths and passions and learn how you can use them to help make your dreams come true. Pay attention to how you feel while working on this badge—do any of the projects spark a new passion or interest? (One clue: If the time you spend working on a project flies by, it's probably something you really enjoy!) Along your BLISS Journey, you'll read stories about women who turned their passions into careers. Use your work on this badge to help think of ways you could do the same!

Now that I've earned this badge, I can give service by:

- Organizing a career workshop—with guest speakers—for girls who are interested in art and the outdoors
- Helping Girl Scout Juniors earn their Digital Photographer badge
- Being an advocate for an outdoor beautification project in my community

I'm inspired to:

Special thanks to our council and volunteer badge co-creation team:

Tracey Bunch and Susan Groff,
Girl Scouts of Eastern PA

Deb King and Chrissy Turner, Girl Scouts
of the Green and White Mountains

Lorena Kirschner, Girl Scouts
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Scarlett Webb, Girl Scouts of Western NY

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