

JUNIOR BADGES TO DO AT HOME



Outdoor Art Explorer

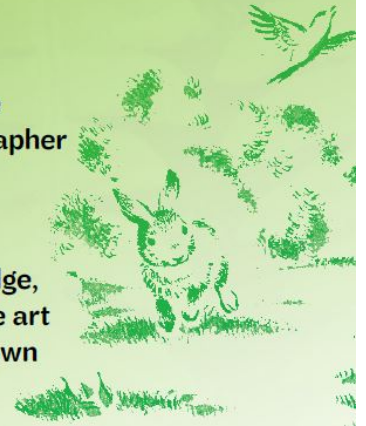
From murals on buildings to oil paintings of landscapes, art and the outdoors go hand in hand. Let nature be your inspiration as you explore, create, and design different kinds of art.

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.



To earn this badge, please complete one option per step.

STEPS	BADGE REQUIREMENTS	OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3
Step 1	Explore outdoor art.	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!	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?	Talk to an artist. There are women artists everywhere, and each one has her own unique story. Call on an artist you know or find a video interview online of an artist—she could be an art teacher or a famous artist 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 your research, make an art piece of your own that's inspired by her work.

<p>Step 2</p>	<p>Make something.</p>	<p>Make something wearable. Buddy up and take a night walk from your house 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 online for more details! If you use bleach for your project, make sure to wear rubber gloves and protective eyewear.</p>	<p>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!)</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Step 3</p>	<p>Find music in nature.</p>	<p>Sing outdoors. Girl Scouts have been singing songs outdoors for more than 100 years. Learn a new song. It can be any song you want—you can even try it with your favorite popular song. Go on a walk with your family, and try playing follow the leader: Change the speed of the song to match the leader's walking pace.</p>	<p>Make rainy day music. The next time there's a rainy day where you live, take some time to really listen to it. How do the sounds change as the rain gets heavier and lighter throughout the day? If it's a thunderstorm, how does it sound different as the storm gets closer and farther away? Then try to recreate the sounds of a rainstorm with music. If you play an instrument or like to sing, you can do it on your own. If you want to try it with your siblings or adult family members, you might create a "human rain storm."</p>	<p>Create "nature's symphony." Make music with items you find in nature. You might shake a bag of rocks, wave swishy branches, and blow grass whistles. Come up with your own beat, or set up an outdoor speaker and play along with your favorite songs! When you're done making music, return the items back to the places where they were found.</p>

Step 4	Be 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?	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 neighborhood area. Take a picture of one structure that you think works well with nature, and one that doesn't. Share with a family member or a friend (via email/text) and talk about what you found.	Go big and small. <i>Macro</i> means big and <i>micro</i> 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 (digitally)—see how long it takes them to guess what's shown in the pictures.
Step 5	Design with nature.	Design outdoor art. Find online a photo or video of 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, just type into a search engine "public art in (my area name)." 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.	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.	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.