

**“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.

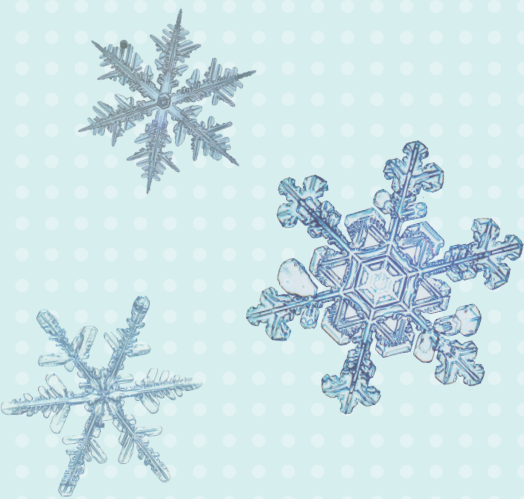
Don't collect or touch anything—just observe and make a checkmark next to the item you find!

- ☐ 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:

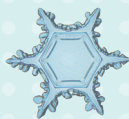
Find things that begin with each letter of the alphabet.





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!

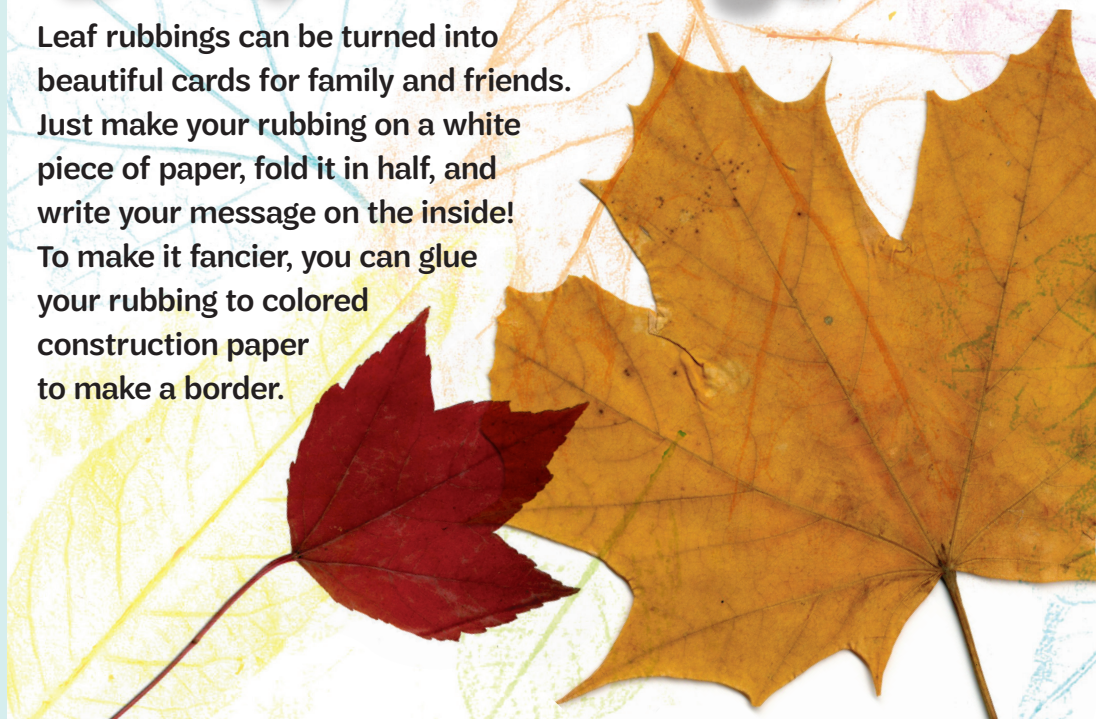
Take a walk outside to look at things in nature you think are pretty. It could be a garden with bright, colorful flowers. A rock that has sparking crystals in it. A colorful sunset. A bird's feather. A rainbow. The stars in the sky. Get ideas to help you create something to give away or keep for yourself!

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!

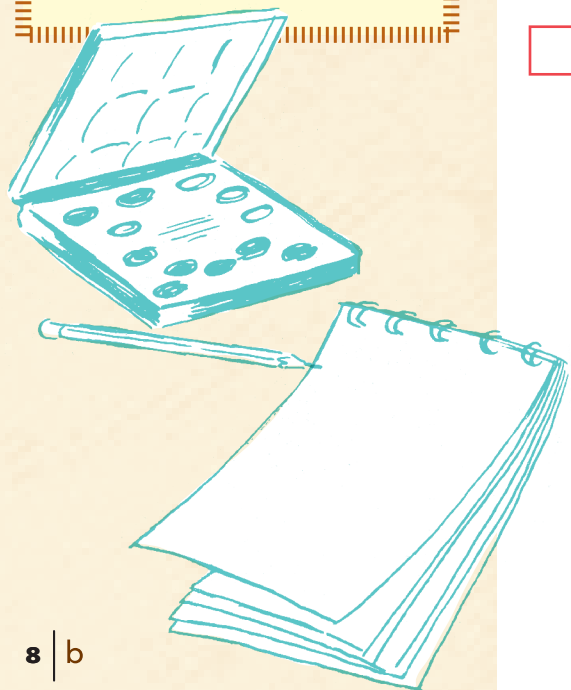
OR

- ☐ **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:

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 NY

©2016 Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or by any other electronic or mechanical methods now known or hereinafter invented, without the prior written permission of Girl Scouts of the United States of America, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permissions requests, write to Girl Scouts of the United States of America at the address below or visit the www.girlscouts.org website to access permission request forms.

First published in 2011 by Girl Scouts of the USA
420 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018-2798
www.girlscouts.org

Printed in the United States

©Stock images courtesy of iStockphoto.com

UPC 64011

