



## Cadette Book Artist

For centuries, humans have been developing methods to create and bind paper in order to share ideas, knowledge, and inspiration with each other and with future generations. The craft of creating books has evolved over time, but the basic human need to share words and pictures has stayed the same. In this badge, try gluing, stitching, and folding your way to shaping your own book artistry style—you'll create some spectacular gifts and keepsakes.

### Steps

1. Explore the art of bookbinding
2. Get familiar with the insides of a book
3. Try out book artist techniques
4. Focus on function
5. Focus on style

### Purpose

When I've earned this badge, I'll know how to make different kinds of books.

Step 1 Get to know how kids develop.

### **Step 1: Explore the art of bookbinding.**

Since they were scratching figures into clay with sticks, humans have been creating and preserving documents. The invention of paper made the possibilities seemingly endless, and today artists make book covers by recycling everything from bottle caps and cereal boxes to leather clothes and license plates. Dive into the art of bookbinding!

### CHOICES – DO ONE:

Survey a book collection. Find five different sizes and styles of books that you like at a library, bookstore, or in your own collection. Then figure out the binding and printing methods used to create each one. (Books and websites about book arts will help you get familiar with the parts of a book.

For More FUN: Share one or two examples of books you find particularly beautiful with your Cadette group.

### OR

Interview or visit a book artist or bookbinder. Many colleges offer courses in book arts, and the teachers may share some knowledge with you. Librarians and antique booksellers may

also be able to point you to a book artist. Ask the artist how they got involved in book arts, why they love making books, and what kinds of books they make. If you can, visit their studio. What kinds of tools and materials do they use? Can they point you to resources in the community that can help you with the rest of your steps?

OR

Tour a book arts center or art museum. If there's a book arts center or museum with a book arts collection near you, go for a visit. When there, find five examples of the bookbinding craft that you like.

For More FUN: Read a book about bookbinding before you.

## Sidebar: Colophon Hunt

Publishing houses often have many different divisions, called imprints. (Usually, imprints were once separate companies.) Each imprint has its own logo, called a colophon.

The colophon is printed on the bottom of the book's spine, and it can often give you some clues about what's inside. That's because imprints have their own personalities— they often focus on certain genres—like fantasy, romance, or young adult fiction—or try to publish authors who have similar writing styles or similar messages. Scan the spines of your favorite books at home, at the library, or at a bookstore—are there any common imprints?

## Sidebar: Parts of a book

The binding, covers, paper, and design elements used to create and print a book all have special names. Find the definitions of these terms for a basic introduction to book arts:

- Spine
- Joint
- Board
- Hinge
- Digest size
- Paper stock
- Gutter
- Folio
- Endpaper
- Jacket
- Flap

- Signature
- Headbands
- Gilt edge
- Deckle edge
- Chain stitch
- Saddle stitch
- Octavo
- Case cover (cloth or three-piece)
- Extent
- Perfect binding
- Coptic binding

## **Step 2: Get familiar with the insides of a book.**

Before you start creating your own books, take a look inside to see how they're made. In the process, learn how to mend books so you can help keep your collection—and the collections of others—in great shape. Get started with these choices.

### **CHOICES – DO ONE:**

Mend an old book. Visit a nearby library, and, if possible, tour the repair or conservation area. Understand the basic process of repairing a paperback book, and try your hand at it—either help at the library you're visiting, or ask for the librarian's assistance in repairing an old book of yours or one from a used bookstore.

### **OR**

Take an old book apart. Find a discarded book from a library or an old book from your collection, a used bookstore, or a yard sale. Name the parts of the binding and interior. Then carefully take the book apart to find out how it was made.

**TIP:** Keep the pages, and recycle them into new crafts or pages of books you make in this badge.

**For More FUN:** Find out what it would take to put the book back together, and, if possible, go for it!

### **OR**

Visit an antique or rare bookseller. Repairing very old books is a delicate process. Ask someone skilled in this area to explain how it's done and to show you some examples.

**For More FUN:** Find out what makes a book rare and why an old book is not necessarily a rare and valuable book.

**Step 3: Try out book artist techniques.**

All you need to get started in book crafts are plain paper, your fingers for folding, regular thread, and glue. Pick one choice to try two of these classic bookbinding methods. You'll make finished books in steps 4 and 5, so use this step to get familiar with your materials and how to use them. Look for specific directions in a book or online; you might also ask an expert or attend a course for guidance.

**TECHNIQUES:**

Fold-and-cut. Try making a star book or accordion book with this method, which requires few tools.

Glue binding. Gluing allows you to place many pages into a spine and to add beautiful covers to basic books.

Stitch. Make a simple sewn book—you could try a simple saddle stitch or the more advanced chain stitch method.

**CHOICES – DO ONE:**

Fold method *and* glue method  
OR

Fold method *and* stitch method  
OR

Glue method *and* stitch method

**Step 4: Focus on function.**

Now that you've taken a close look at books, it's time to make your own! Consider what kinds of materials will work best with the contents of the book you choose to make.

**CHOICES – DO ONE:**

Make an organizational book. This might be a personal date book, planner, or calendar book. Some computer programs offer templates with calendar pages you can bind into your book.  
OR



## Cadette Book Artist

Make a scrapbook, memory book, or personal journal. This could be an album for your photos; a journal for thoughts, dreams, or favorite quotes; or a book with heavy paper for pasting in memories from a Girl Scout trip or a family vacation.

OR

Make a gift book. This could be an appreciation book, in which friends can write something cool about the girl you're giving it to. It could be a sketch journal for an artist friend. Or it could be a bound manuscript or book of poems for a friend who's a novelist or poet (you could even design a book jacket!).

### **Step 5: Focus on style.**

Books can be interesting for more than just their content—they can be beautiful works of art. Concentrate on the look and style of the book you create in one of the choices below.

#### **CHOICES – DO ONE:**

Make a book from something unexpected. Use grocery bags, maps, menus, magazine or newspaper pages, or any other kind of creative material as a cover, endpapers, or pages for your book.

OR

Try a different binding technique or alter a book. Other bindings might include buttonhole binding or coptic binding. An “altered” book is one that might otherwise be discarded—instead, you add paint, collage, pop-ups, scrapbook elements, messages, or anything else you'd like to give the book a new life as an art piece.

OR

Get creative with the definition of “book.” Use your bookbinding skills to make a pop-up book, old-fashioned scroll, artist's portfolio case, or cloth baby book!

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

- Binding together family recipes for a keepsake cookbook
- Helping mend books at my local or school library
- Creating a memory book for my Girl Scout volunteer on Volunteer Day



## Cadette Book Artist

*All trademarks, trade names, or logos mentioned or used are the property of their respective owners.*

*TM ® & © 2023–2024 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, electronic or mechanical methods, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, now known or hereinafter invented, without the prior written permission of Girl Scouts of the United States of America (GSUSA), 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 GSUSA at the address below or visit the [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org) website to access permission request forms.*