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. You’ll get inspired by the beauty in nature and use that inspiration to get creative. Roll up your sleeves and let’s 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.
- **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
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Step 1: Explore outdoor art

When people think of art, they first often think of paintings hanging on the walls of museums. 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.

- Make art indoors and outdoors; get started with this video!

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!

- Make something wearable; watch this video to continue.

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;
- Turn nature into music; find out what I tried in this video!

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.

- Find a new view; let’s get creative in this next video.

Take a look at these satellite images to see how nature can look like other things, such as veins or paintings.
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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

**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.

- Design a space for play; finish up your badge work with this final video!

**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
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