

**“Art is as natural  
as sunshine  
and as vital as  
nourishment.”**

—MaryAnn F. Kohl



# Outdoor Art Explorer

**F**rom 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.

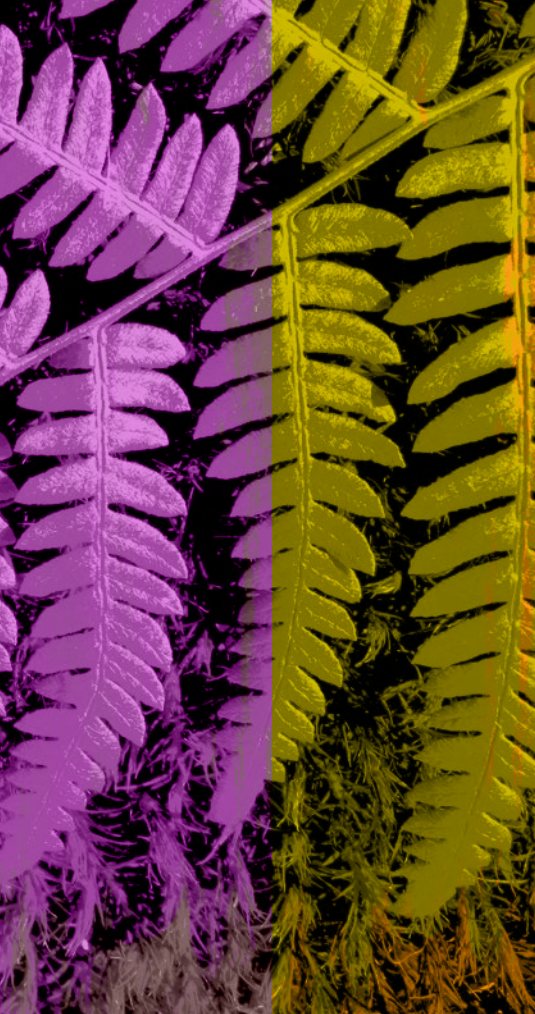
## Steps

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.

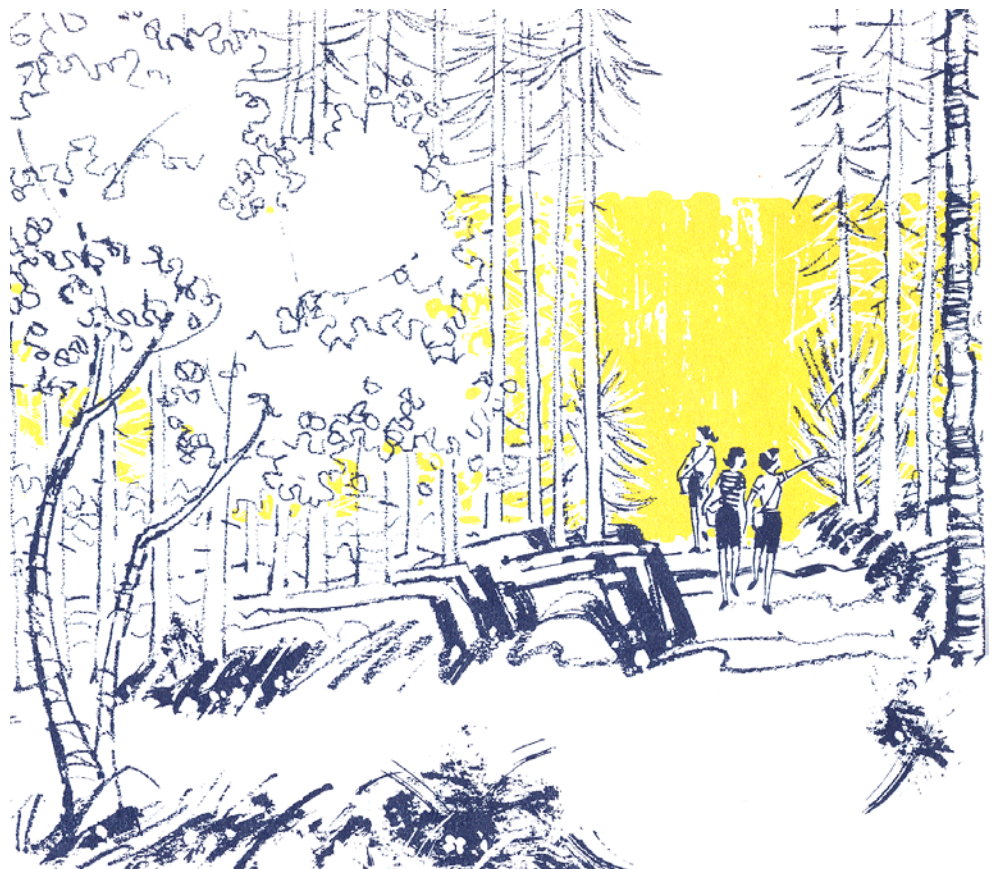




## Tips Before Takeoff

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.











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.







# 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







# 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.









# 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.



Some bird houses are homes for just one bird family. Others are like apartment buildings! What kind of bird house will you design?





## 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:

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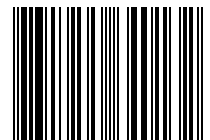
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