



“You can’t use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.”

—Maya Angelou



# Outdoor Art Master

**W**hether 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—to get inspired by the beauty in nature and use that inspiration to get creative. Roll up your sleeves and dive in!

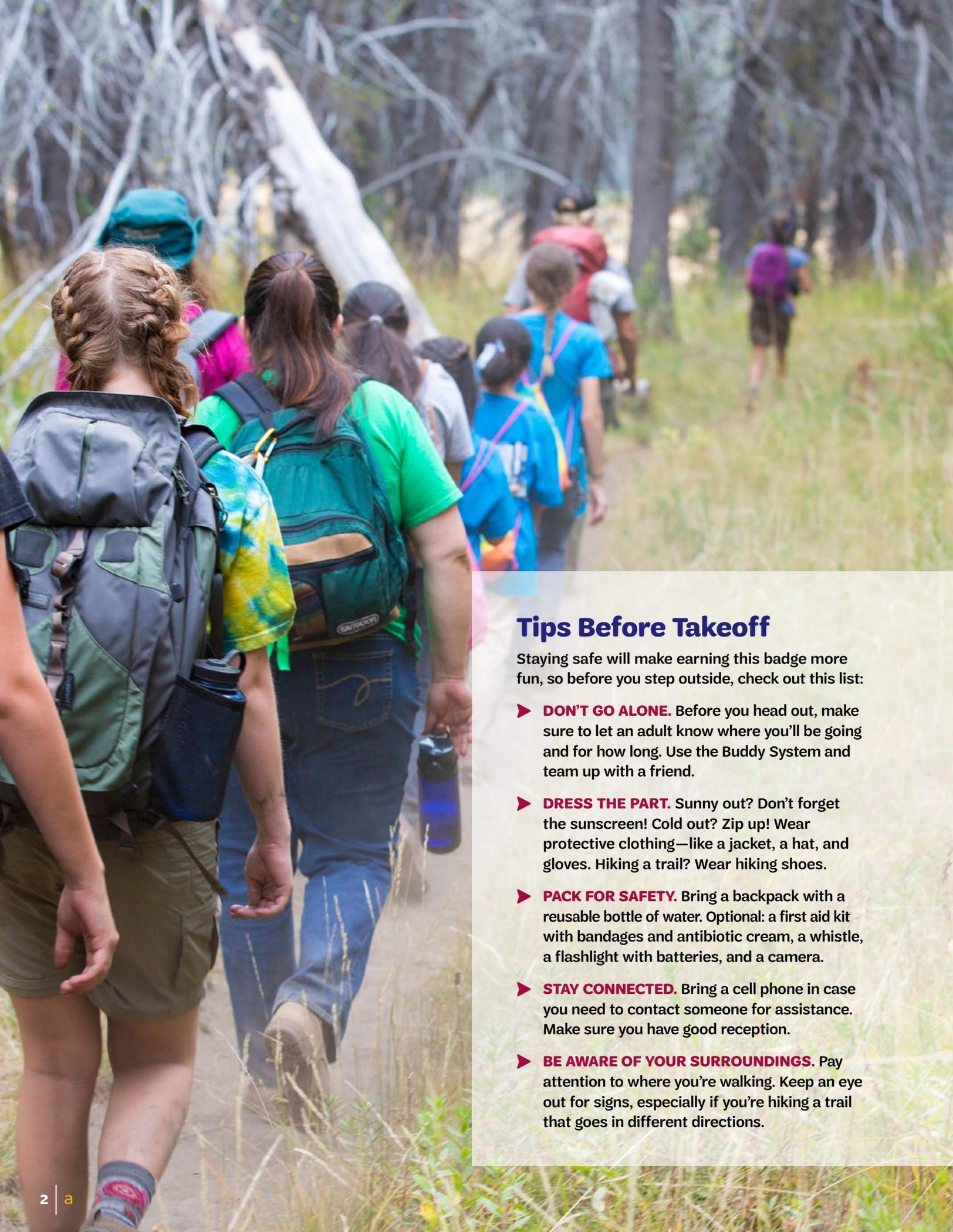
## Steps

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.

Every step has three choices. Do ONE choice to complete each step. Inspired? Do more.

## STEP 1 Explore outdoor art

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

### CHOICES—DO ONE:

**Make art indoors and outdoors.** This choice is done in two parts, one at the start of the badge and one at the end. At the start of your badge work, create a black-and-white piece of art indoors. (It doesn't have to be a picture—it could be a photo collage, sculpture, movie, or any other type of visual art you can think of!) At the end of the badge, take your supplies outside and re-create the piece of art using the colors you see around you in nature.

OR

**Showcase art outdoors.** Find an outdoor space that is naturally beautiful to you, and get permission from the owner to use the space as a temporary art gallery. (You will need permission from the municipal parks department or other relevant agency to create your outdoor space in a park or playground.) Host a show and invite younger girls and community members to see the artwork. You could show projects that were all made by you (maybe include art from your younger self, too), or also include work made by other girls if you have their permission. You can do this step last, and include your finished badge projects.

**FOR MORE FUN:** Record an audio “walk through”—like the kind used at some museums—that people can listen to with headphones as they view the show.

OR

**Talk to an artist.** Find a woman artist whose art is influenced by the outdoors. She could be an art teacher or even an older girl you know—and remember, art comes in all shapes and sizes! Talk to her about her process and her artwork. Afterwards, you can either record your response to the experience in some way—by journaling, writing a poem, or making an audio recording—or make an art piece of your own, inspired by her work.

### 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



When this illustration appeared in an issue of *American Girl* in 1929, it was in black-and-white. Here, some color has been added. How do you think it changes the image?



## Try this square lashing technique

## 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!

### CHOICES—DO ONE:

- Make something wearable.** Try your hand at making something to wear that interacts with the outdoors—or changes when you go outside and expose it to the elements. You could make clothes or pieces of jewelry that change color in the sun, use LEDs to make light-up shoes for night walks . . . just get inspired by the outdoors and let your imagination go.

OR

- Build a kite or solar balloon.** On a windy day, head outside and take some time to look at how the environment is affected by the wind. Use your observations to help design and build a kite or solar balloon. You can follow instructions you find on your own, or follow the directions on the next page to make a traditional kite.

**For More FUN:** Hold a kite-flying competition with your Girl Scout friends.

OR

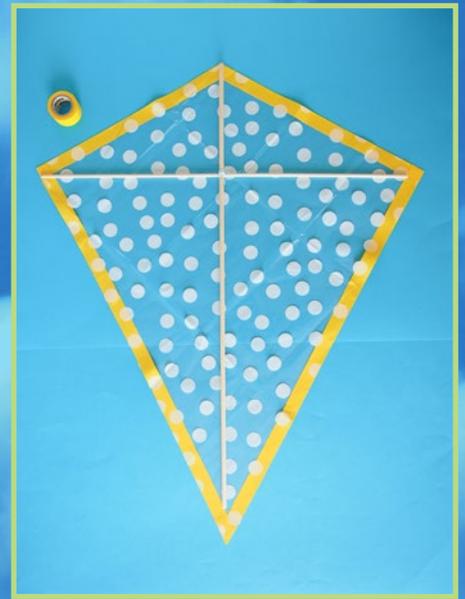
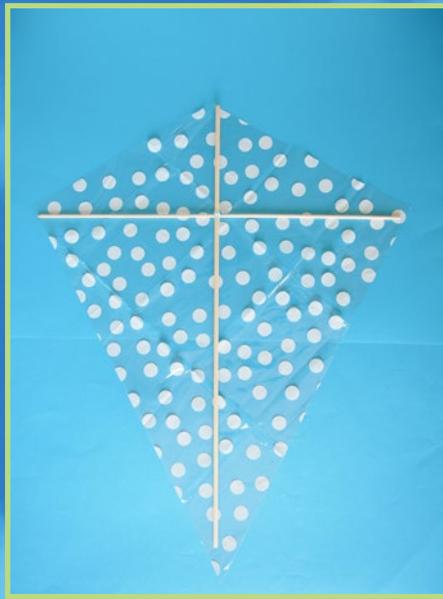
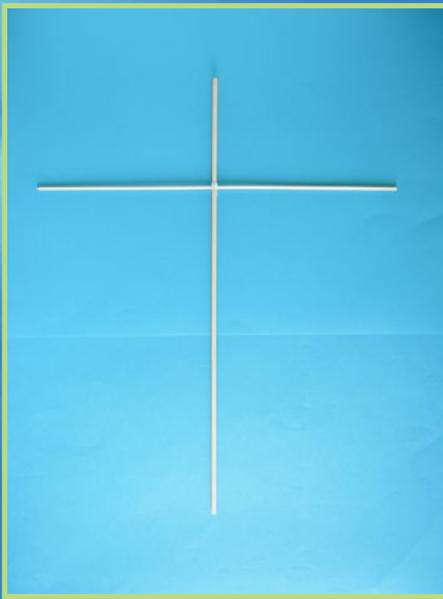
- Make a lashing.** Build an outdoor sculpture by lashing sticks or small branches together. Lashings are a practical way to join two objects together, but you can get creative with them, too! You might build a giant sculpture with your Girl Scout friends, or you can each make your own and then compare them.

*Junior Girl Scout Handbook, 1969*



MAKE A

# K I T E

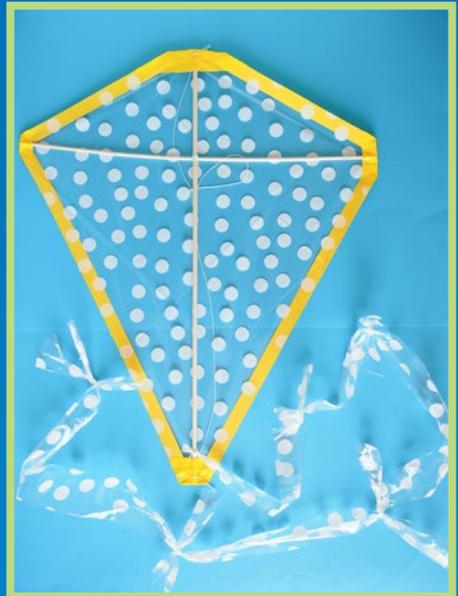
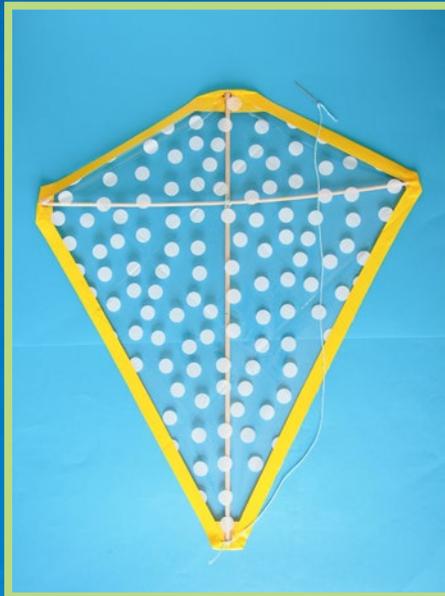
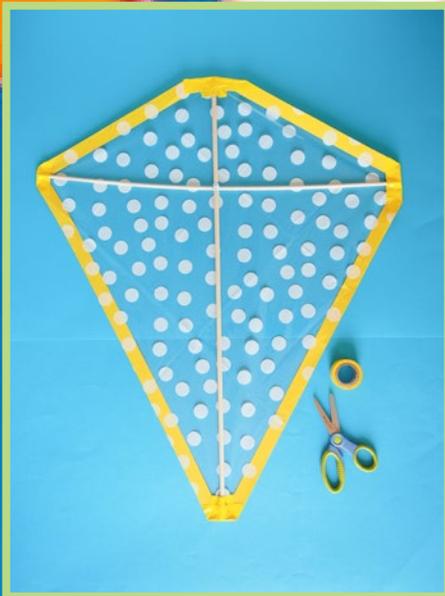


Follow these instructions to make a traditional diamond-shaped kite.

### You will need:

- Large piece of plastic from cut from a plastic bag (at least 27" square)—we used a bag with polka dots
- 24" x 1/4" craft dowel or straight lightweight stick (if you use a craft dowel, you will probably need to trim a longer length for both sticks)
- 20" x 3/16" craft dowel or straight lightweight stick
- Craft knife
- Electrical tape
- Needle or toothpick
- Lightweight string or twine

1. Place the shorter stick 6" from the top of the vertical stick, horizontally.
2. Secure the sticks tightly together with string. The sticks should be at right angles to each other.
3. Place the kite frame onto the plastic.
4. Cut the plastic around the kite frame into a diamond shape that's an inch larger than the frame.
5. Lay a piece of electrical tape along each edge of the plastic.
6. Fold the top and bottom corners of the plastic over the frame and secure with tape.
7. Repeat on the side corners.
8. Use a needle or toothpick to make two small holes in the top and bottom corners of the kite, on either side of the long stick. 



**9.** Cut a piece of string 28" long. Tie one end through top holes on the smooth side of the plastic (the front side without the frame) and the other end through the bottom holes. (This string is called the bridle.)

**10.** Make a loop from a 7"-long string.

**11.** Thread the loop tightly through itself onto the string (bridle) on the front of the kite about a third from the top. (This is called the bridle point.) The loop should slide up and down the bridle string to help you find the best angle for flying.

**12.** Cut 2"-wide strips from the plastic bag leftovers (or other plastic bags). Tie the strips together to make a tail that's at least 6' long, and tape or tie it to the bottom of your kite.

**13.** Play with the length of the tail to help its stability in flight.

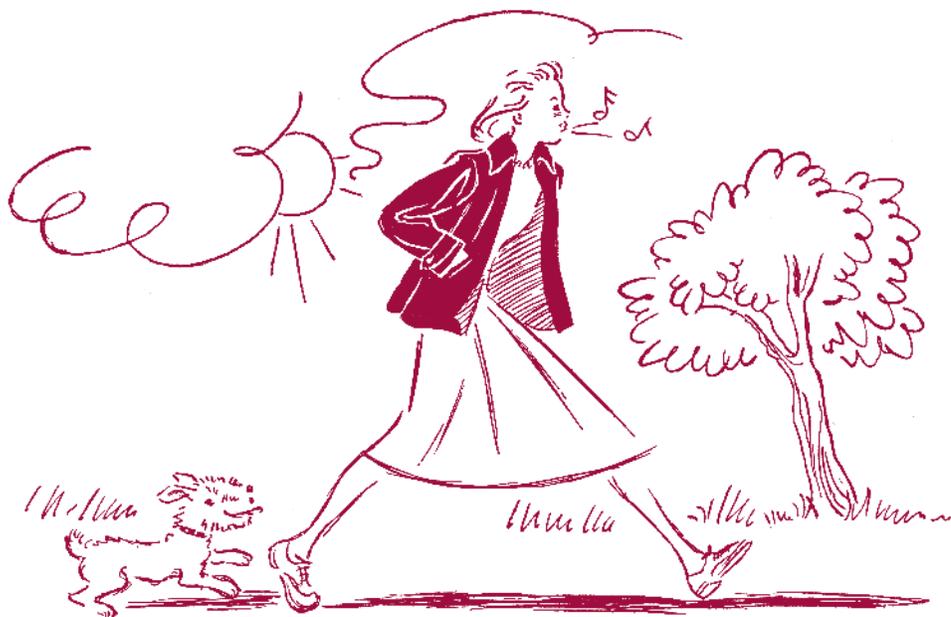


## STEP 3 Find music in nature

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.** Think of your favorite place to walk—possibly a hiking trail at a park or at camp—and create a downloadable soundtrack for people to listen to while they walk. You could include narration about the history of the space and the kinds of plants or wildlife they might see, nature sounds, poetry, or music. (Remind your listeners to always keep one ear headphone-free for safety!) When your soundtrack is ready, take the walk once without the recording and once with it. How did the soundtrack change the experience? Which walk did you prefer?



OR

- Turn nature into music.** Record different kinds of outdoor sounds from your area (such as birdsongs, crunching leaves, insects, or running water). Then mix and layer your sounds to create a song or composition.

OR

- Build a musical instrument.** Use items from nature to make a multitonned musical instrument. You might use a gourd to make a stringed instrument or bamboo to make a flute.

**For More FUN:** Film your process and make a how-to video for other girls.



## 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

### More to Explore

#### Earth as Art

Most photographers do not have access to satellite cameras, but that hasn't stopped them from manipulating satellite imagery to create their own art. One artist spent several days painting and repainting hearts on the ground in Brazil. After the area was photographed by satellites each day, the artist put the pictures together to make a GIF that looked like flashing hearts. NASA has also put together collections of spectacular satellite photos of Earth. Do you think those photographs are art? Why or why not?

## 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.**

### CHOICES—DO ONE:

- Make a digital diary.** You may have kept a written journal in the past (or maybe you do now), but have you ever tried a visual one? Create a visual representation of the outdoor spaces in your life over a period of time—maybe a few days or a few weeks—using photos or videos, or a mix of the two.

**For More FUN:** Include your Girl Scout friends in your project, and extend it over the course of a year so you can see how the changing seasons affect your project. Then make copies of the finished work for your friends.

**OR**

- Inspire change.** Documentaries and photographs can be a great way to use art as a call to action. Dive into a local environmental issue that's important to you by creating a documentary film or photo series about it, making sure to include ways for people to help. Create an event where you can showcase your film or photos to educate people about your issue.

**OR**

- Find a new view.** Look at satellite photos from your area and around the world. How does it change the way you see the space? Next, take your own pictures outdoors from unusual perspectives. You might lie underneath a tree to photograph its underside, or view a flower garden from above. Share your photos with family or friends.

**For More FUN:** Research photographers who used their craft to educate the world about a particular place, animal, flower, or tree.

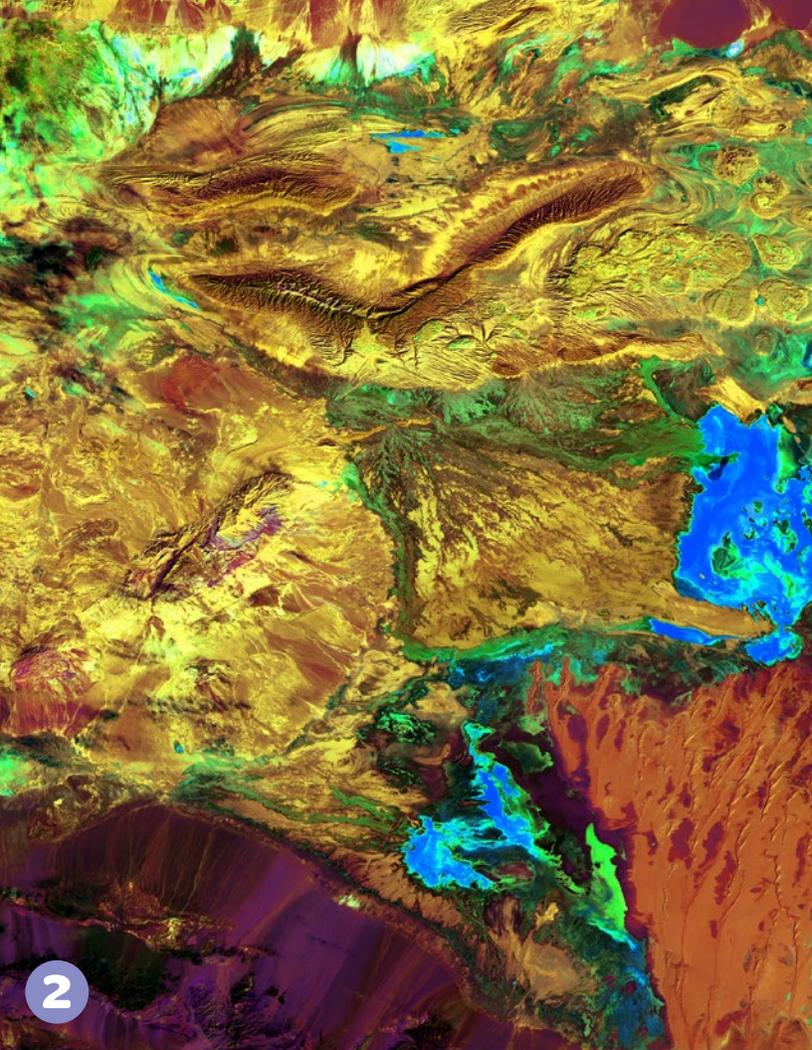
## Where on the planet are these photos from?

- 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

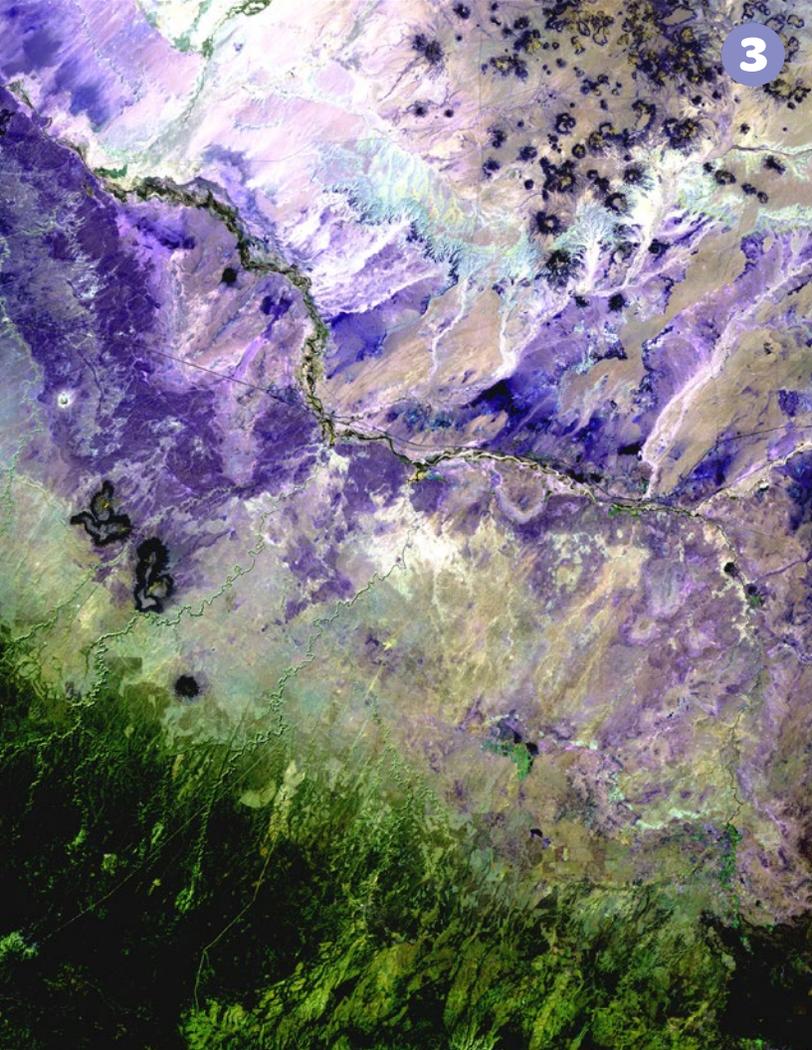
Satellite images from the Earth Resources Observation and Science Center, part of the U.S. Geological Survey. False color has been applied to satellite images to bring out details invisible to the human eye.



1



2



3



4



## 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.

### CHOICES—DO ONE:

- Design a landscape.** Research sustainable landscaping and find a place in your community that could benefit from a new or updated landscape. (A garden filled with flowers that need lots of water in a drought-prone area, for example.) You might talk to a landscaper in your area and look to their landscapes for inspiration. Then come up with your own design for a landscape that would add to the beauty of an area without causing harm to the environment.

**For More FUN:** Take the next step—put your plan into action!

OR

- Design a treasure hunt.** Geocaching is a type of high-tech treasure hunting game. Players use an app or a GPS receiver to follow clues to a geocache, or hidden treasure box. (You can read more at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) or [www.navicache.com](http://www.navicache.com).) Design your own “geo art”—this means that the locations of hidden clues (or caches) will make a picture or design when viewed on a map. Make sure to follow the Leave No Trace principles as you create your design.

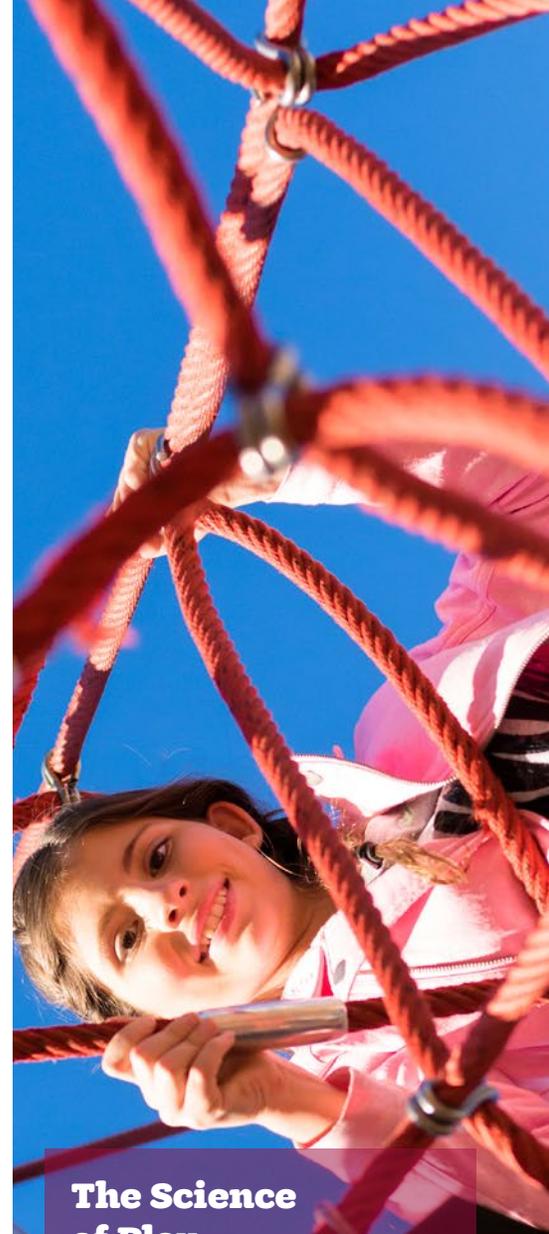
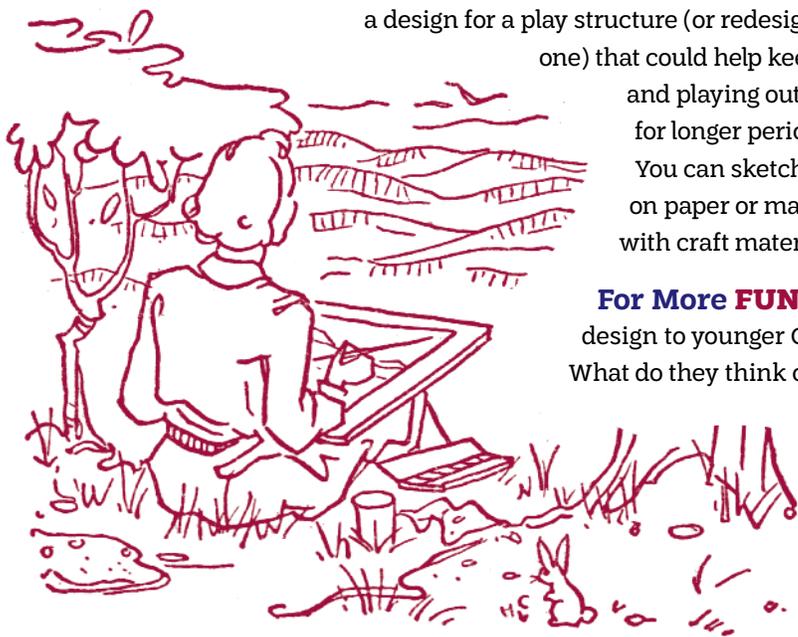
OR

- Design a space for play.** Spend some time at an outdoor playground with younger girls. Which play structures are the most popular? What could be added or changed on the playground to improve it? Create a design for a play structure (or redesign an existing one) that could help keep kids active

and playing outdoors—safely—for longer periods of time.

You can sketch your design on paper or make a 3-D model with craft materials.

**For More FUN:** Show your design to younger Girl Scouts. What do they think of your idea?



### The Science of Play

Playgrounds are a lot of fun, of course, but they might be more important than you realize. Today’s kids spend less time playing than any generation before them, and they’re not just missing out on physical activity—though that’s important, too. Research shows that active play with other kids also helps to teach collaboration, creativity, and empathy. It can be especially difficult for kids in economically challenged areas to find safe places to play. Several nonprofit organizations help build playgrounds in these areas. Interested? Go online to find out more.



## Going on a Journey? Do some badge work along the way.

On the *BLISS: Live It! Give It!* Journey, you explore your strengths and passions and learn how you can use them to help make your dreams come true. Pay attention to how you feel while working on this badge—do any of the projects spark a new passion or interest? (One clue: If the time you spend working on a project flies by, it's probably something you really enjoy!) Along your BLISS Journey, you'll read stories about women who turned their passions into careers. Use your work on this badge to help think of ways you could do the same!

### 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

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

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First published in 2011 by Girl Scouts of the USA  
420 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10018-2798  
[www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org)

Printed in the United States

©Stock images courtesy of iStockphoto.com

UPC 64019

