

JUNIOR OUTDOOR ART EXPLORER BADGE – MEETING 1

Badge Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they'll know how to find the art in nature and create their own outdoor art.

Activity Plan Length: 1.5 – 2 hours

Time	Activity	Materials Needed
15 minutes	Getting Started <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls recite the Girl Scout Promise + Law. 	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster
20 minutes	Walking Sticks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls will learn about folk art, then head outside to find walking sticks. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Walking sticks handout (at end of the activity plan)
25 minutes	Walking Sticks (Part 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls will create an ornament for their walking sticks. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Air dry modeling clay <input type="checkbox"/> Wax paper <input type="checkbox"/> Hand or body lotion <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Pottery sculpting tools <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Slip <input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Paintbrushes
15 minutes	Musical Islands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls will play a musical game outdoors. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Music player <input type="checkbox"/> Hula hoops <input type="checkbox"/> Large outdoor space
15 minutes	Wrapping Up	<input type="checkbox"/> (Optional) Make New Friends lyrics poster

Getting Started

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster

Welcome everyone to the meeting, recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

Activity #1: Walking Sticks

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Explore outdoor art

Materials Needed: Walking sticks handout (at end of the activity plan)

Prep Needed:

- Print out a copy of the walking sticks handout (or pull up on your computer or phone).



1. Ask girls how many of them have gone hiking. Ask girls to raise their hands if they've seen people using trekking poles or walking sticks during those hikes (or use poles/sticks themselves). Why do they think people use poles or sticks while hiking? (For example, for balance or to make it easier to walk).
2. Tell girls that artists have also carved canes and walking sticks for a long time as a form of art. This type of art is called "folk art." Explain that folk art blends beauty with functionality. Like these walking sticks, folk art can be beautiful objects that are also made to be used everyday.
3. Show girls the Walking Sticks handout to let them see the different styles.
4. Then, head outside to find clean, bark-free branches to create their own walking sticks. Sticks should be about armpit-height on girls, and not too thin or too thick. Remember to follow Leave No Trace principles—only collect sticks that are on the ground, not cut from trees.

Activity #2: Walking Sticks (Part 2)

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 2 – Make something!

Materials Needed: Air dry modeling clay; wax paper; hand or body lotion; (optional) pottery sculpting tools; (optional) slip; (optional) paintbrushes

Prep Needed:

- Cut wax paper into roughly 8.5" x 11" sheets. These will be girls' work surfaces.
 - (Optional) You can use the slip and score method for joining pieces of clay. To make slip, put a few dabs of clay into a small container and add a bit of water. Mix the clay and water together until it dissolves; the final product should have the consistency of heavy cream. If you need, add more clay and/or water to achieve the proper consistency.
1. Now that they've found their walking stick, girls will be creating an ornament to go on top of the stick.
 2. Hand each girl a small ball of air dry modeling clay and a sheet of wax paper. Remind girls to work on the wax paper so they can easily remove their final product from the table. Once girls have found a place to sit, put a dab of lotion on their wax paper. Air dry clay is very sticky, so using lotion will prevent the clay from sticking too much to their hands.
 3. If you're using, lay out the pottery sculpting tools, slip, and paintbrushes for girls to share. (Use the paintbrushes to apply the slip.)
 4. Remind girls that their ornament will be glued onto the top of their stick, so it should be about the same circumference of their walking stick; if it's too big, it might fall off.
 5. After girls have finished creating their ornaments, they should leave them to dry (it will take about 24 to 72 hours to completely dry and harden.) Girls will be painting these at their next meeting.

Activity #3: Musical Islands

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 3 – Find music in nature

Materials Needed: Music player; hula hoops; large outdoor space

Prep Needed:

- Scatter hula hoops around your space (they should be some distance apart).
1. Tell girls that you'll be playing a game just like musical chairs. Ask for a (girl) volunteer to explain the rules of musical chairs.
 2. Explain that the hula hoops will be like the "chairs" in the game. When the music plays, girls will have to move through the open space (remind them that they can walk quickly, but they may not run). Once the music stops, they should find an open "island" to land on. Any girls who aren't on an island are out of the game. Before you begin to play the music again, remove one hula hoop. Continue for a few rounds until there's only one hula hoop left.
 3. If girls would like, play a few more rounds of the game. Switch it up a bit by making the hula hoops super close together, or very far apart.



Wrapping Up

Time: 15 minutes

Materials Needed: (Optional) Make New Friends song lyrics poster

Close the meeting by singing Make New Friends and doing a friendship circle.

More to Explore

- Field Trip Ideas:
 - Visit a museum or gallery featuring work by a nature photographer.
 - Visit an outdoor sculpture garden to see how art interacts with nature.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite a folk artist to your troop meeting to talk about their creative process.



Walking Sticks



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