

SENIOR OUTDOOR ART EXPERT BADGE

Badge Purpose: When you've earned this badge, you'll have learned how to create art outdoors with a focus on the environment.

Activity Plan Length: This plan can be completed at your own pace. You can expect to spend 4 – 6 hours completing all of the activities, so budget your time accordingly.

Activity	Materials Needed
Taking Imagination Seriously <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watch a TED talk highlighting artist Janet Echelman. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer or phone with internet access <input type="checkbox"/> Notebook <input type="checkbox"/> Pencil
Art Investigator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit an outdoor exhibit, sculpture garden, or mural. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Notebook/journal <input type="checkbox"/> Pencil/pen <input type="checkbox"/> Camera (or phone with camera)
Activity #3: Site Specific Art <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create outside-inspired art and display/ share it outside. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Various art supplies <input type="checkbox"/> Found materials
Activity #4: Create a nature song <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record sounds and create your own song. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer or phone with internet access and audio capabilities

Activity #1: Taking Imagination Seriously

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Explore art outdoors

Materials Needed: Phone or computer with internet access; notebook; pencil

- Watch the TED Talk [Taking Imagination Seriously](#), featuring artist Janet Echelman (10 minutes)
- As you watch:
 - Count how many individuals and groups Echelman collaborated with to make her vision a reality.
 - Notice the unique materials Echelman needed to use (and in some cases, engineer) to achieve her vision.
 - Consider how Echelman's art would be different if it were displayed in a traditional art gallery.
 - Keep track of special considerations Echelman made because her art would be displayed outdoors.

Activity #2: Art Investigator

Badge Connection: Step 1 - Explore art outdoors

Materials Needed: Notebook/journal; pencil/pen; camera (or phone with camera)

Prep Needed:



- Research examples of outdoor art around the world and in your community. “Public Art” and “Sculpture Garden” might be helpful key words. Check local parks, arboretums, and outdoor spaces near museums to find outdoor art near you.
- Plan a visit to an outdoor art space with your troop, a friend, or family member. If possible, align your visit with a scheduled tour or set up a meeting with an artist or other knowledgeable person.

While there:

1. Observe the setting. Why do you think the art is located where it is? If there are multiple pieces of art, why do you think they are arranged in the way that they are? Is the site of this art significant? Do additional research if needed.
2. Ask questions. If you take a tour or meet someone who works there, ask them for more information about the art. Questions to consider:
 - How are the art pieces or artists chosen?
 - Is the art permanent? Does it change frequently?
 - Who takes care of the art? What kind of maintenance does it require?
 - What environmental considerations are taken?
3. If there are others around, notice their reactions. Do they stop to contemplate? Do they rush by? Do they interact with the art?
4. Imagine what this art might look like in different seasons. How would changing seasons change the feeling of the art?
5. What special considerations might the artist have had to make for this outdoor art piece? (Weather, sustainability, materials, elements, safety, etc.)
6. Is the art multi-purpose?
7. How does the art react to the elements (wind, water, etc.)?
8. Take notes, make sketches, and take photos for future reference.

Is there a sculpture that stands out to you? A mural with a message? Let it inspire you for Activity 3.

Activity #3: Site Specific Art

Did you know? Art exhibits, dance pieces, or theatre pieces made specifically for one location are called *site specific*, meaning the piece was designed intentionally for that space, making the space itself part of the art! Sites could be anything from a public park to underwater!

Badge Connection: Step 2 – Make something! and Step 5 – Design Outdoors

Materials Needed: Various art supplies; found materials

1. Find an outdoor space that is interesting to you. It could be your backyard, a community park, or maybe even the place you visited for Activity 2!
2. Create your own outdoor art piece inspired by or located in the place you choose. Think: a chalk mural, a dance, a skit, a sculpture of found objects, the sky is the limit! Make sure to get permission before creating anything permanent or semi-permanent.
3. Don’t fight the elements—embrace them! Think of wind, snow, hail, and other natural occurrences as tools in your artist toolbox! (While keeping safety in mind!)
4. Make sure to consider the environmental impact of your creation. Follow Leave No Trace principles. Ensure that wind or rain won’t transport your project or cause harmful materials to seep into the ground. Try to use all natural and/or recycled materials.
5. Find a way to display, present, or showcase your work. Gather an audience, lead a guided tour, or invite friends to perform with you!



Activity #4: Create a nature song

Badge Connection: Step 3 – Create or share music inspired by nature and Step 4 – Capture nature digitally

Materials Needed: Computer or phone with internet access; music editing application (can download free on a phone or computer); audio recorder (or computer/phone with audio recording capabilities)

1. Nature has long inspired composers and musicians. Are any of your favorite songs nature-inspired?
2. Find and listen to 8 - 10 songs inspired by nature. Try to include music from various genres. Remember, the music doesn't have to have lyrics to be about nature, Vivaldi's Four Seasons, a four-section classical music piece, is one of the most well-known nature inspired pieces of music!
3. Collect your own nature-inspired sounds using an audio recorder, app, or computer. Get creative with your "instruments"—you could use your own voice, a homemade drum, recordings from the birds in your backyard, or falling rain!
4. Using an audio editing app, such as Ocenaudio, Audacity, or Garageband, upload your sounds and mix them together to create a unique nature-inspired song!
5. Share your song with friends, family, or your troop!
6. For more fun: Create an album cover for your song on paper or digitally (You can create one for free here: <https://www.canva.com/create/album-covers/>)

More to Explore

- Field Trip Ideas:
 - Attend an outdoor art festival or art fair.
 - Make a visit to an outdoor artist's studio space.
- Speaker Ideas:
 - Invite a local artist who specializes in outdoor art or outdoor-inspired art to talk about their work.
 - Invite an audio engineer or sound engineer (in reference to activity 4) to talk about their creative process.

