

JUNIOR OUTDOOR ART EXPLORER BADGE – MEETING 2

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 (Part 3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls will paint their ornaments for their walking sticks. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Ornament (from Meeting 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Acrylic paint <input type="checkbox"/> Paintbrushes <input type="checkbox"/> Water <input type="checkbox"/> Small containers <input type="checkbox"/> Paper towels <input type="checkbox"/> Walking sticks (from Meeting 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Super glue <input type="checkbox"/> Spray varnish <input type="checkbox"/> Newsprint or craft paper
25 minutes	Snack Chat + Rule of Thirds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls will enjoy a healthy snack while learning about photo composition. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Square/rectangular crackers (like graham crackers, saltines, or club crackers) <input type="checkbox"/> Small dried fruit (like raisins, raisins, or dried cherries) or Goldfish crackers <input type="checkbox"/> Napkins <input type="checkbox"/> Cameras
20 minutes	Mason Jar Terrariums <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls will create terrariums in mason jars. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Mason jars (one per girl) <input type="checkbox"/> Potting soil <input type="checkbox"/> Scoops (for transferring soil and stones) <input type="checkbox"/> Peat moss <input type="checkbox"/> Small stones <input type="checkbox"/> Plants <input type="checkbox"/> Watering can or small cup <input type="checkbox"/> Small figurines or other little props
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 (Part 3)

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 2 – Make something!

Materials Needed: Ornament (from Meeting 1); acrylic paint; paintbrushes; water; small containers; paper towels; walking sticks (from Meeting 1); super glue; spray varnish; newsprint or craft paper

Prep Needed:

- Spread newsprint or craft paper onto painting surfaces to protect them.
 - Set out small containers of water for girls to clean their brushes.
 - The ornaments should be completely dry before girls start painting them, otherwise the paint will not adhere to the surfaces.
1. Allow girls to paint their ornaments. Remind girls to use thin coats so that the paint dries quickly. Their ornaments will be sprayed with a varnish after they're done painting them to protect them from the elements. After they've finished painting, set the ornaments aside to dry completely.
 2. Note: You'll want to do Activity #2 and #3 while you wait for the ornaments to dry. After completing those activities, do the following steps.)
 3. Once they're dry, use super glue to attach the ornaments to the walking sticks. Lay the sticks out on the newsprint or craft paper and then apply a thin, even layer of spray varnish on the ornaments. Depending on the brand of varnish, it will take a few to 24 hours for the varnish to dry completely.

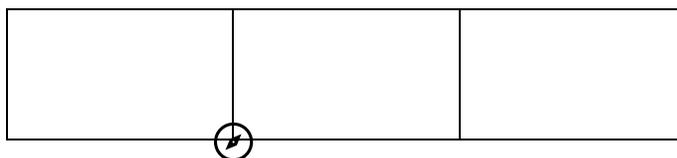
Activity #2: Snack Chat + Rule of Thirds

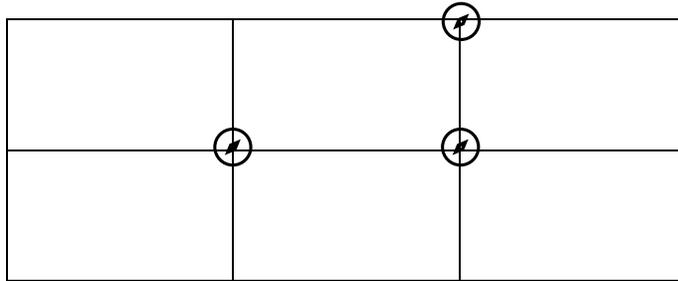
Time: 25 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 4 – Be a nature photographer

Materials Needed: Square/rectangular crackers (like graham crackers, saltines, or club crackers); small dried fruit (like raisins, or dried cherries) or Goldfish crackers; napkins; cameras

1. Explain that one of the tricks that photographers use when they take pictures is something called the “Rule of Thirds.” If they earned their Photographer badge, they might have heard of this referred to as the “Tic-Tac-Toe” trick.
2. Basically, before you take a picture, you imagine that there's a tic-tac-toe board covering your image. When you take your picture, you want your main subject to be in one of the spots where the lines on your tic-tac-toe board intersect.
3. Pass out snack. Each girl should have nine crackers and four pieces of dried fruit or Goldfish crackers, and a napkin. Instruct girls to spread out their napkin, and then lay out their crackers in a 3 x 3 grid. If these crackers were the picture they wanted to take, where should they place their main subject? Use the dried fruit or Goldfish crackers to indicate where the subject should be. *They should be at the intersection points on the cracker grid as shown below:*





4. Go around to make sure girls have indicated the correct spots on their crackers. They can enjoy their snack once you've checked.
5. Afterwards, head outside and practice using the rule of thirds while taking photos of nature.

Activity #3: Mason Jar Terrariums

Time: 20 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 5 – Design with nature

Materials Needed: Mason jars (one per girl); potting soil; scoops (for transferring soil and stones); peat moss; small stones; plants; watering can or small cup; small figurines or other little props

Prep Needed:

- Set up a terrarium station. Lay out stones and potting soil and provide scoops for each. If using, set out small figurines or props.
1. Explain to girls that a terrarium is like a miniature garden. Today, they'll be using their imagination to design a miniature world!
 2. Hand each girl a mason jar. Fill the jar with an inch or two of small stones. These stones will make sure the soil properly drains—if it's too soggy, the plants inside won't flourish. Add a layer of peat moss over the small stones. Then, add an inch or two of potting soil over the moss. Then, add plants (make a small hole for the plant's roots, then cover with soil and tamp down lightly). Once the plants have been added, decorate with figurines or other small props. After girls have completed their terrariums, use the watering can or a small cup to dampen the soil with water.

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.

