BROWNIE OUTDOOR ART CREATOR BADGE – MEETING 1

Badge Purpose: When girls have earned this badge, they’ll know how to do different kinds of fun art projects outdoors.

Activity Plan Length: 1.5 to 2 hours

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Materials Needed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>Getting Started</td>
<td>□ (Optional) Girl Scout Promise and Law poster</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Girls recite the Girl Scout Promise + Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 minutes</td>
<td>Natural Patterns</td>
<td>□ Phone or computer with internet access or Natural Patterns handout</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Girls will explore the different kinds of patterns that exist in nature.</td>
<td>□ Cameras</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 minutes</td>
<td>Circle Loom Weaving (Part 1)</td>
<td>□ Chinet plates (two per girl)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Girls will paint a weaving loom.</td>
<td>□ Tempera paints</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>□ Paint brushes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>□ (Optional) Newspaper or craft paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>Snack Chat</td>
<td>□ Healthy snack</td>
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<td>• Girls will enjoy a healthy snack while learning more about patterns in nature.</td>
<td>□ Book about patterns in nature</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 minutes</td>
<td>Wrapping Up</td>
<td>□ (Optional) Make New Friends lyrics poster</td>
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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: Natural Patterns

Time: 25 minutes

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Find art ideas outdoors and Step 4 – Be a nature photographer

Materials Needed: Phone or computer with internet access or Natural Patterns handout; cameras; (optional) sketchbooks, pencils, and/or colored pencils
Prep Needed:

- If using, print out the Natural Patterns handout (at the end of the activity plan).

1. Share with girls that many artists have been inspired by nature. Today, they'll be going outside to get some inspiration for their own art.

2. Ask girls to share what they know about patterns. Most likely, girls will explain that patterns are something that repeats itself (like the pattern blue red blue red, etc.).

3. Explain to girls that patterns also exist in nature, though they look a little bit different than patterns that we might see in wrapping paper or clothing. These patterns aren’t accidental—scientists figured out that they can use math to explain certain patterns in nature, things like what shape the leaves of a plant will grow into, and the spiral of a snail’s shell.

4. Look through National Geographic’s photo collection to give girls a sense of the types of patterns that exist in nature (https://www.nationalgeographic.com/photography/patterns-in-nature/). Or, if using, show them the Natural Patterns handout.

5. Then, head outside as a group and see what patterns exist in the outdoor spaces around you. If you have cameras available, photograph the interesting patterns that you see. If cameras aren't available, use sketchbooks and pencils or colored pencils to record what you see.

**Activity #2: Circle Loom Weaving (Part 1)**

**Time:** 20 minutes

**Badge Connection:** Step 2 – Make something and Step 5 – Design with nature

**Materials Needed:** Chinet plates (one per girl); loom template; tempera paints; paint brushes; (optional) newspaper or craft paper

**Prep Needed:**

- (Optional) If using, cover surfaces with newspaper or craft paper to protect them from paint.
- (Optional) Set up a paint station. Girls can use an extra Chinet plate as their “palette” and go up to the paint station to get different colors as they need.
- Create your loom template: measure and cut 19 equally-spaced notches on the rim of a Chinet plate. Make sure not to cut past the rim (see photo for example).

1. Note: If weather permits, do your art projects outdoors. If not, move girls into an indoor space for this activity.

2. Some girls might have noticed that spider webs are a kind of pattern than exists in nature. Today, they’ll be weaving a web of their own to hang on their walls!

3. Hand each girl a Chinet plate. Encourage girls to use the paints to create a pattern on their plates. Use a variety of different-sized brushes to create intricate patterns.

4. If you took photographs or made sketches while on your nature walk, have them available for girls to scroll through as they work on their plates for additional inspiration.

5. Note: Girls will complete this activity in the next meeting.
Activity #3: Snack Chat

Time: 15 minutes

Badge Connection: Questions link to multiple badge steps
Materials Needed: Healthy snack; book about patterns in nature
Prep Needed:
- Check out a book about patterns in nature from the library (book suggestions below).

1. While girls are enjoying snack, read them a book about patterns in nature. After reading, discuss:
   - Why do you think there are so many different kinds of patterns in nature?
   - Which kinds of patterns do you like the best?
   - What’s something new you learned about the patterns that you see in nature?

Book Suggestions:
- *Swirl by Swirl* by Joyce Sidman
- *Patterns in Nature* by Jennifer Rozines Roy
- *Flow Spin Grow* by Patchen Barrs

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 the zoo to see how patterns show up in animals’ fur, scales, and feathers.
  - Visit a science lab (see if your local middle or high school will grant you permission) and look at leaves and other natural objects under the microscope to see patterns on the cellular level.

- Speaker Ideas:
- Invite a textile artist (like a weaver or quilter) to your troop meeting to talk about how they use patterns in their art.
Patterns in Nature

Source: www.nationalgeographic.com/photography/patterns-in-nature