

Junior Outdoor Art Explorer Badge – At Home and Virtual Activities

From murals on buildings to oil paintings of landscapes, art and the outdoors go hand in hand. Let nature be your inspiration as you explore, create, and design different kinds of art.

1. Explore outdoor art.
2. Make something!
3. Find music in nature.
4. Be a nature photographer.
5. Design with nature.



When I've earned this badge, I will know how to find the art in nature and create my own outdoor artwork.

Activity 1	Explore Outdoor Art
Activity Summary	Create art inspired by wildlife that you can find online.
Supplies needed	Art supplies like paper and crayons, markers, colored pencils, or paint and brushes
Advance Prep needed	Gather art supplies - make sure to get an adult's permission if you're going to paint!
Link to online resources	Google Earth: National Parks of the United States
Instructions	Find a national park that you like from the link of virtual tours above. Observe the local wildlife in the area of the park. Think about the different colors, textures, and body parts that you see. How do these features help each living creature thrive in its environment? Now mix things up! Create an art piece to show a whole new kind of wildlife that would be well suited to your park's local environment. Maybe a bullfrog with a wide tail to fan itself during heat waves, or a pigeon that grows a fur coat when it's cold? The sky's the limit!

Activity 2	Make Something!
Activity Summary	Make an impression.
Supplies needed	Play-Doh or clay Flour, salt, water (optional, if you want to make your own salt dough)
Advance Prep needed	(Optional, if you want to make your own salt dough): Gather materials and make salt dough using the directions below if you don't have clay or Play-Doh at home. Make sure to have an adult's help for this – it can get a little messy!

Link to online resources	(Optional, if you want to make your own salt dough): https://unsophisticook.com/salt-dough-recipe/
Instructions	Using clay or salt dough, make an outdoor-themed impression. You might collect leaves or shells, or anything that's unique to the area where you live. Press your found objects into the clay or dough, then remove them and return them to the place where they were found. If you'd like to hang your impression when it's finished, make a hole at the top for string. (You may need to re-poke the hole a few times as your impression dries to keep it from closing up.) Your impression can be dried in the oven on low heat—ask an adult for help—or outside in the sun on a hot day.

Activity 3	Find Music in Nature
Activity Summary	Create “nature’s symphony”.
Supplies needed	Small items from outdoors
Advance Prep needed	None
Link to online resources	N/A
Instructions	Go outside to your back yard and find some things you can make music with! You might shake a bag of rocks, wave swishy branches, and blow grass whistles. Come up with your own beat, or set up an outdoor speaker and play along with your favorite songs! When you're done making music, return the items back to the places where they were found.

Activity 4	Be a Nature Photographer
Activity Summary	Be a macro and micro virtual photographer.
Supplies needed	None
Advance Prep needed	Learn how to take a screenshot on your device (you may need an adult’s help)
Link to online resources	Google Earth: National Parks of the United States
Instructions	Go to the virtual tour you selected in Activity 1 using the link above. Try taking macro and micro shots of outdoor objects by zooming in and out on the virtual tour. (Macro means big and micro means small.) Take a series of screenshots where you get closer and closer in on an object until it's difficult to tell what it is. Share your photos with family or friends—see how long it takes them to guess what's shown in the pictures.

Activity 5	Design With Nature
Activity Summary	Design a terrarium.
Supplies needed	Paper and coloring supplies
Advance Prep needed	Gather art supplies
Link to online resources	Google Earth: National Parks of the United States NASA Climate Kids terrarium example: https://climatekids.nasa.gov/mini-garden/
Instructions	A terrarium is a miniature garden inside a container. (If you're not sure what one looks like, check out the NASA Climate Kids page for an example!) Sketch a design for a terrarium for the animal you made in the first activity. Refer to your chosen virtual tour to include things in the animal's environment that they would need in a terrarium.
Reflection/Discussion Questions	How can you help animals whose natural habitats are threatened? Why is it important to preserve natural spaces like national parks?

Once you've finished all the requirements, you'll have earned the Junior Outdoor Art Explorer badge! Find the Outdoor Art Explorer badge [here](#).