

Artist Legacy Kit

This kit contains activities and related materials to help teach girls of all ages more about the history of Art in the Girl Scout world. This is one of seven legacy topics that have been important to Girl Scouting since the movement began in 1912. The other legacy topics are Athlete, Citizen, Cook, First Aid, Girl Scout Way and Naturalist.

The activity ideas included in this kit are taken directly from handbooks of the past or are modern interpretations inspired by skills Girl Scouts have learned through the years. Girls can choose to do as many or as few as they like, though leaders and advisors should help them choose ones that are appropriate for the girls' level. Citations at the end of the activities provide a place to go to learn more about that activity or era.

Just as the legacy topics have been part of Girl Scouting for its first 100 years, they will continue to be part of its future. Girls who are interested in doing even more activities related to any of the legacy topics can earn the modern-day version of these badges. Age-appropriate requirements for legacy badges can be found in the Girls Guide to Girl Scouting.



Girl Scouts doing art projects at Camp May Flather.

Introduction

Self-expression has always been a part of Girl Scouts. Girls have always been encouraged to try new things and to use their creativity. Whether you are using a paintbrush or clay, do not be afraid to express yourself and learn something new. Try some of the activities in this kit to get an idea of the kinds of art related activities Girl Scouts have done through the years.

Artist Legacy Kit Contents

This kit contains:

- Leader Guide
- Example rubbings
- Badges for rubbing
- Coloring pages
- Career cards
- Artist Related Career Cards
- Girl Scout Artist Photographs from the Past
- Archival Gloves

Please be sure to handle materials gently and return them to the kit when finished. Use the list above to make sure you have all of the kit items.

Artist Activity Ideas

The first five activities meet badge requirements in the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting.



- ❑ Visit a local art museum with your troop. Be sure to pay attention to how many different kinds of art they have, not just paintings. *This completes Step 1 of the Artist badge in the Brownie Girl's Guide.*
- ❑ Draw a still life. A still life is a drawing of an object or collection of objects. Try using different media in your still life. A medium is a way of drawing such as crayons, colored pencils or markers. *This completes Step 1 of the Artist badge in the Junior Girl's Guide.*
- ❑ Create a coloring book for a younger troop. Draw pictures about what it is like to be an older Girl Scout. Make sure to draw the pictures using black ink and white paper so that the younger girls can color them in. Staple the pages together to make them look more like a book. *This completes Step 3 of the Artist badge in the Cadette Girl's Guide.* You can also use the drawings included in your coloring book, or make copies and use them as coloring pages.
- ❑ An important part of art is color. There are three primary colors: red, blue, yellow. By combining those colors you can create the secondary colors: green, orange, violet. Make your own color wheel to help you understand how the different colors are formed. Draw a circle on a piece of white paper, and then divide it into six even sections. Mark every other section a primary color. Then place the secondary colors between the two primary colors used to form them, example: green goes in between yellow and blue. If you don't know which primary colors make which secondary colors, experiment with mixing paint or crayons to find out. Then make a collage of pictures using only one color. Make sure to include different shades of the color. *This completes Step 2 of the Artist badge in the Senior Girl's Guide.*
- ❑ Invite friends to take part in a photo shoot day. Set up fun locations, props, and wardrobe. What kinds of cool photos can you compose? *This completes Step 3 of the Artist badge in the Ambassador Girl's Guide.*



- Use pencils, crayons, markers or paint to create a picture illustrating your favorite story, song or poem. (Junior Girl Scout Handbook Dabblers Badge, 1963 p. 326)
- Learn about a style of painting. Whether it is impressionism, realism, abstract or expressionism learn about the way this style is executed, and who is most famous for using it.
- Go with your troop to a place where you can paint your own pottery.
- Use the recipe below and make your own play dough:
 - 1-1/2 cups flour
 - 1 cup salt
 - 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
 - 1/2 cup water
 - food coloring

Mix the flour and salt. Slowly add the water and knead to make smooth dough. Add the oil and food coloring and knead until the color is mixed in. No cooking is needed.

Make something out of the play dough. Use your imagination to decide what you are going to make (Brownie Scout Handbook, 1951 p.73). Then once your creation is dry add more color by painting it if you would like.

- It is really easy to use objects in your everyday life to make art. Make rubbings of things that are raised or engraved. To make a rubbing use a thin piece of white paper and lay it over an object that is a little bit bumpy. Then gently run over the object with a pencil or crayon. Start with a coin. Then look around your meeting space and see if you can find other raised surfaces to do rubbings of. Maybe a paperclip or a Girl Scout patch. Try this game with a few friends. Get two friends and place an item under a sheet of paper without them seeing what it is. Start to do the rubbing. The first person to guess what the object is gets to do the next rubbing! Play this game with the badges included.

These badges are examples of the seven different legacy badges.
Can you identify which badge is which?

- ❑ Look for designs in everyday objects. List eight different designs you can find in nature and eight that you can see in man made objects. Make a drawing of at least one of each of the different designs you see (Girl Scout Badges and Signs Visual Arts Badge, 1990 p. 187). For example the parallel lines that are found along the edges of coins.
- ❑ Try drawing a picture using only one line. The picture can be of anything you want but the challenge is to not pick up your pencil from the paper while you draw it. Try starting with a simple image such as a flower or tree, then move to more complex images such as people or houses. You will be surprised how challenging this can be!
- ❑ Being an artist does not just mean drawing or painting. With your troop create a story, poem or song. Make sure that everyone has input and that the story is very creative. You can write about being a Girl Scout, history or anything you all choose. Perform your creation for another troop, family or friends.
- ❑ Take a look at the historical photographs found in the kit. See if any of the artist related activities girls did back then are similar to the ones you and your troop do today!
- ❑ Career exploration has long been part of Girl Scouting. Girls around the country have been encouraged to find out what jobs are available in fields and industries they are interested in, and to connect with people working in those areas to learn more about the profession. Check out the career cards in this kit. Read about different women who held these artist-related positions in 1978. Do any of them interest you? Do some research to figure out a modern-day job that is similar to one of the career cards and interview a person who works or has worked in that position. What is the same and what is different about the job? Make a copy of the blank career card and fill it out during or after your interview. Add this person to your personal network!

Wrap-up

These are just a few ideas inspired by Girl Scout publications of the first 100 years. Feel free to explore and dabble in other activities that you come across or think of, and teach others about what you've learned. If you have enjoyed doing the artistic projects in this kit look into taking art lessons either as a troop or on your own! Have fun!