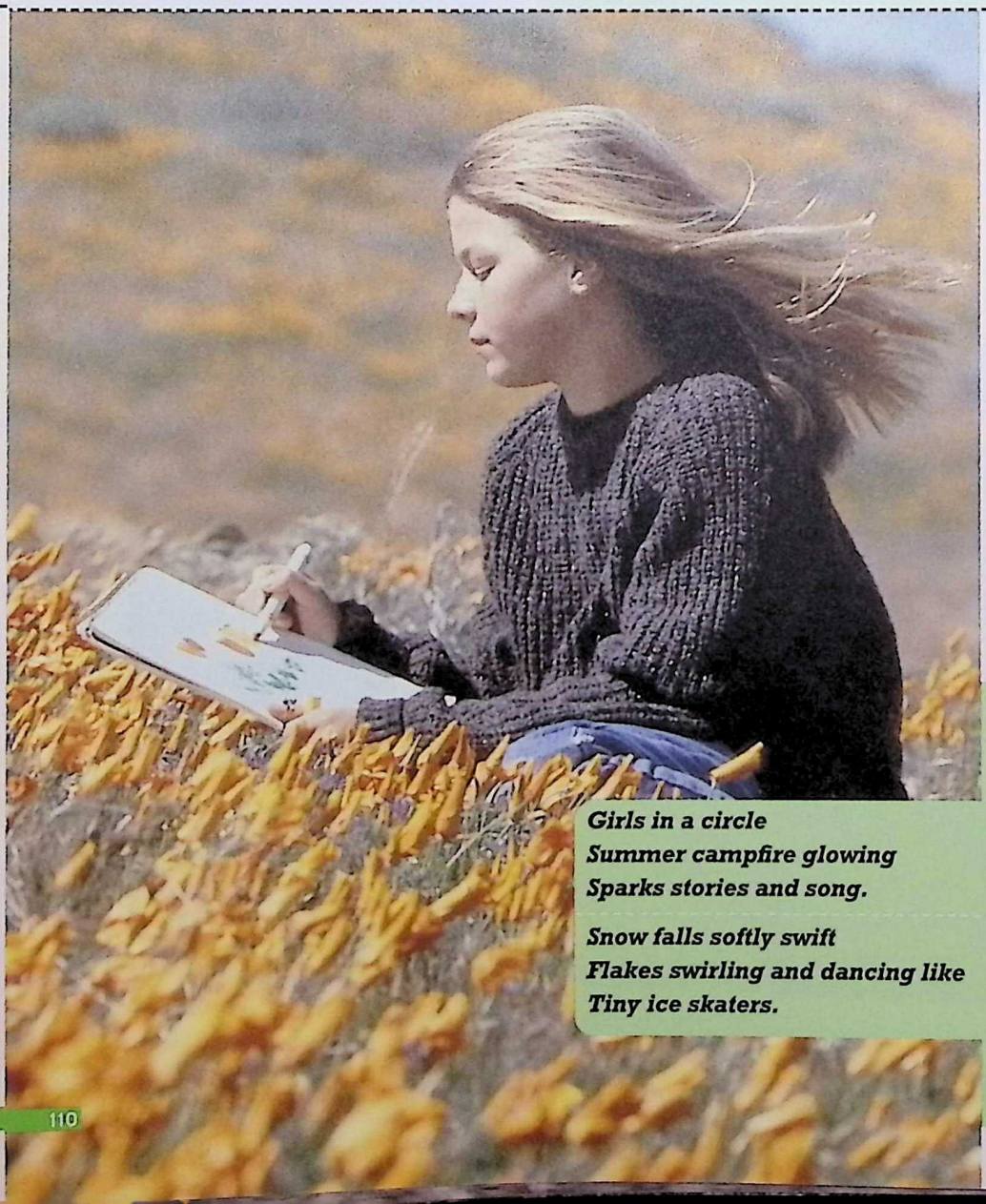
Outdoor Creativity

Poets, writers, artists, and musicians have been inspired by nature to create some of their most famous works. Let nature inspire you by trying some of the activities in this badge.





Girls in a circle
Summer campfire glowing
Sparks stories and song.

Snow falls softly swift
Flakes swirling and dancing like
Tiny ice skaters.

1. Many Ways to Be Creative

Use nature as your inspiration and create a drawing, painting, sculpture, or other work to share with others. Talk about why your subject appealed to you and what you hoped to show in your work.

2. It's Famous

Find a famous creative work that was inspired by the natural world. You can choose a piece of music, a painting or sculpture, a poem or story, or another work. Learn a little bit about your choice and the person who created it. Share the work and your knowledge with others.

3. Nature in Three Lines

Try writing the kind of poem known as a haiku. Haiku is a form of poetry that originated in Japan. A haiku doesn't rhyme, and has 17 syllables—five in the first line, seven in the next, and five in the last. A haiku usually mentions one of the four seasons—either by name (winter) or by reference (snow). Two examples are to the left.

4. Capture a Piece of Nature

Capture a season in full bloom by pressing flowers.

What You Need

- Two sheets of cardboard
- Sheets of newspaper
- String or rubber bands
- A flat, heavy weight (a large, thick book would do nicely)
- Flowers (Do not pick wildflowers—use flowers that you have permission to pick from a garden or yard. Flowers that are flat dry better than flowers that are very round and dense.)

What You Do

1. Lay out your flowers. You can keep the stems and leaves or remove them.
2. Put down a sheet of cardboard and top with two sheets of newspaper.
3. Place some of your flowers on the newspaper. Make sure they don't touch each other.
4. Place two more sheets of newspaper on top.
5. Continue layering flowers and sheets of newspaper.
6. Top with the other piece of cardboard.
7. Carefully tie string or put rubber bands around your stack of flowers and papers.
8. Place your stack in a cool, dry place where it can remain undisturbed for two weeks.
9. Place a weight on top of the stack.

In two weeks, very carefully check your top layer of flowers to see if they have dried. If they have not, leave them alone for another week. After the flowers are dry, you can use them for many types of artistic creations.



5. Celebrate Nature

Plan a creative outdoor event—on your own or with a group. Include activities in which the audience can participate, such as songs or skits. You can have poetry readings, readings of traditional legends about nature and the environment, and other activities. Include an activity that particularly celebrates the natural environment in the spot you are holding the event.

6. Your Own Garden

Plant a garden of your own. If you don't have space for a large garden, you could participate in a community garden or you could use a large planter. You could choose plants that fit a special color scheme, plants that flower, plants that are mentioned in a favorite book, or herbs that you could use to make lotions or bath oils. Get advice in choosing plants and caring for plants.

7. A Garden Tour

Gardening can be a very creative pastime. Take a tour of a community garden, a botanical garden, or a number of gardens in your neighborhood. You can also tour gardens online. Look at the plants that are growing when you visit and ask about the succession of plants that will bloom the rest of the season. Notice the arrangement of the plants, the plants that need sun and those that need shade, those that are scented and those that aren't, and those that have other uses (such as herbs for medicine or cooking). Decide what you would plant in a garden of your own.

8. A Girl Scout's Own

Plan a Girl Scout's Own ceremony that takes place outdoors, celebrating the special relationship Girl Scouts have with the outdoors. Make sure each person attending has an opportunity to participate.

9. Starry, Starry Night

Participate in a night watch when you are on a camp-out. Choose a special spot outdoors. Arrange for one-hour shifts through the night, signing up in pairs. Let yourself become part of the outdoors at night by keeping silent. How is the night world different from the day? What happens to your senses?

10. Diversity in Nature

Find two very different outdoor spots in which to express your creativity. Choose the same medium in which to be creative—writing, painting, or song, for example—and create two works that represent your feelings about the two different places.