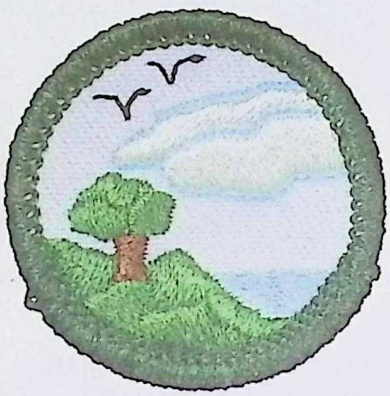
Your Outdoor Surroundings

Do this badge to get a taste of the many different ways to have fun outdoors, from exploring nature, to hiking, to protecting the environment.





1. What Would I Need If . .

Find out about the best fabrics and products for different types of weather conditions. Find out about the various types of equipment used in camping, trekking, and traveling. Visit an outdoor store, look through an outdoor catalog, or visit an outdoor equipment company's Web site.

2. Pack It Up

Plan a trip to an imaginary site. What equipment would you absolutely need to bring to survive? What would you bring to make your travels more comfortable?

3. What Does Minimal Impact Mean?

What is the definition of minimal impact? Read about it in the "Let's Get Outdoors" chapter of your *Junior Girl Scout Handbook*. How could you practice this on one type of outdoor trip, like backpacking, troop camping, a day trip, or a trip to a park?

4. To Protect the Environment

In a troop, group, or with other girls, brainstorm a list of ways you can help the environment. Look in your *Junior Girl Scout Handbook* for ideas.

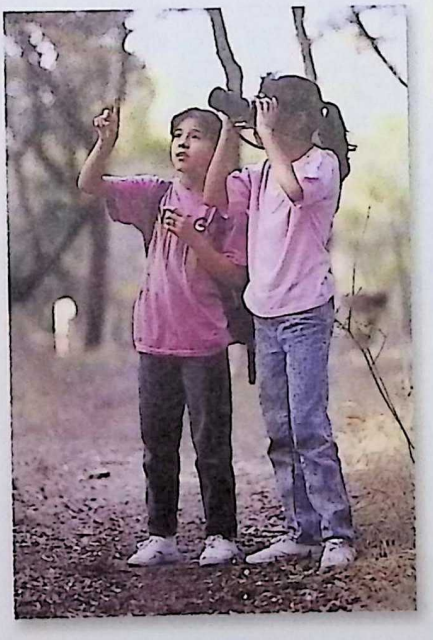
5. An Outdoor Hobby

Learn about an outdoor activity that can become a lifelong hobby. You could learn to ski or hike, do outdoor photography, try orienteering, backpacking, or bird-watching. Find someone who is an expert in the hobby to teach you the basics.

6. Classifying Outdoor Objects: the Artist and the Scientist

Art and science are often related when you are outdoors. Look around a park, backyard, or other outdoor space and find a number of different objects. Then use the following list of words to describe how each object looks:

- Shape—circular, square, oval, cone-shaped
- Size—inches, feet, meters, centimeters
- Texture—rough, smooth, slick, gritty
- Directions—right, left, up, down, in the middle, bottom left
- In relation to—parallel to, horizontal to, smaller than, wider than
- Color—shaded, intense, lighter, darker



7. An Outdoor Career

Learn about a career that is spent mostly outdoors. Find a woman who is working in that career. Invite her to speak with your troop, friends, or family. Or see if you can visit her at work. Don't know anyone who works outdoors? Check out the "Just for Girls" section of the Girl Scouts Web site.

8. What Do You See?

Do this activity with a group.

1. Each person collects an assortment of natural objects that can be held in the hand. For example, a pine cone, a shell, a feather, a leaf, a rock, a twig, or a flower. Each person does not show her objects to anyone else. Each person also has a pad and a pencil and chooses a partner.
2. Partners sit back-to-back—one is the artist and one is the scientist. The scientist holds one of her objects and describes it to the artist without saying what the object is. The artist tries to draw the object from the scientist's description.
3. Compare the drawing with the object. How well was the object described? How accurate was the drawing?

9. Take a Nature Hike!

There are tons of hikes you can take! Try a color-palette hike where you look for as many colors as you can while you hike. Or hike to find shapes in nature. At night, go for a spider-eye hike where you shine your flashlight beam parallel to the ground in grassy places and look for those red spider eyes.

10. Outdoor Fun and Games

Collect different outdoor games to play with other Girl Scouts or friends and family. Plan an "Outdoor Fun and Games Day" in which each person gets a chance to lead some of the games and play in others. Create wild and wacky prizes and have healthy snacks on hand to keep your energy up.