

Girl Scout Brownie

# Outdoor Art Creator



**M**arjorie Merriweather Post, who once lived at Hillwood, surrounded herself with art, both indoors and outdoors. Explore Hillwood's gardens to see outdoor artwork and to find colors, shapes, and ideas in nature, then create your own nature-inspired art!

## **How to Earn Your *Outdoor Art Creator* Badge:**

- Complete all five "Try This!" activities in this booklet.
- Use a Hillwood map to find the locations mentioned.
- Mark the checkbox next to activities you've completed.
- Show your troop leader your completed packet. Your troop leader can purchase Outdoor Art Creator badges from the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital.

## Step 1 — Find art ideas outdoors: Meet an artist who makes art out of things she sees or finds outdoors

### Try This!

Check here when you complete this step.



Visit the **C.W. POST TENT** to meet Rj Lucas, an artist who makes nature-inspired art.

Try these activities with her:

- Watch her demonstrate how to press flowers
- Ask her how she is inspired by the outdoors
- See artworks Rj has created and get some tips about how to make your own art from pressed flowers

Meet Rj Lucas, botanical artist and founder of Rj in the District, a local small business with a goal of bringing more color and joy into our homes and spaces through art.

Rj is an artist and activist living in Washington, DC with her dog Ellie Roosevelt and their many plants.

Rj finds inspiration in nature, using locally-sourced preserved plants when she can to capture some of our environment's beauty while teaching sustainability and herblore.

When Rj was young, she wanted to be an art teacher or the President when she grew up. So now she spends her time painting, creating & advocating for a safer & healthier planet.



## Step 2 — Make something! Make a pressed flower pin you can wear

### Try This!

Check here when you  
complete this step.



#### IN THE GARDENS

Walk through Hillwood's gardens to see flowers blooming. Some good places to find flowers include: the motor court (in front of the mansion), the Lunar lawn (behind the mansion), in the greenhouse, and the cutting garden.

Choose a favorite flower and examine it closely. What details do you see?

- What color is the flower?
- What shape are its petals?
- How many petals does it have?
- What else do you notice?



#### IN THE C.W. POST TENT

Pick up an art kit to create a pressed flower pin to wear, inspired by the flowers you see.

Follow the step-by-step instructions included in the art kit to make your flower pin.

## Step 3 — Dance or make music outdoors: Write an earth song

### Try This!

Check here when you  
complete this step.



#### **IN THE JAPANESE-STYLE GARDEN**

Follow the path from the top of the garden to the bottom, listening closely as you go. What sounds do you hear? Birds? Wind? People? Water? What else?

One sound you may hear is rushing water. Notice how the sound of the water changes, growing louder or softer, depending on where you are in the garden.



Water plays an important role in this garden. The garden is designed to look like a miniature mountain landscape, with a stream starting in an evergreen forest at the top that flows into ponds and through waterfalls, finally resting in a lake at the bottom.

#### **IN THE GARDENS**

Find a grassy spot nearby to try out this activity. Create music from water sounds by using your body to imitate the sounds of a rainstorm:

- 1) Rub your hands together (this imitates wind rustling leaves in the trees).
- 2) Snap your fingers, starting from slow to fast (this imitates raindrops falling, lightly at first, then faster and louder).
- 3) Clap two fingers on your palm again and again (this is to make the sound of rain falling a little harder now).
- 4) Clap your hands together (this imitates raindrops falling harder and heavier).
- 5) Slap your legs and stamp your feet (this is to sound like thunder rumbling, and rain falling heavy and fast).
- 6) Reverse your movements, clapping hands, then clapping two fingers, then snapping, then rubbing your hands together, as the storm quiets down and slows back to a few drops.
- 7) Stop and remain silent for a few moments: the storm has ended.

## Step 4 — Be a nature photographer: Take (or draw) pictures from a miniature world

### Try This!

Check here when you  
complete this step.



#### IN THE CUTTING GARDEN

Imagine you are a bee or butterfly among the flowers in the cutting garden. Pretend to shrink yourself: what would the flowers look like if you were an insect?

If you have a camera, use it to take a picture of the flowers in the garden from a bug's point of view:

- Zoom in to show how large the petals look when you're the size of a bee.
- Take the picture looking down on the flower, to show what the butterfly sees when hovering above.



If you don't have a camera, you can still examine the world as a photographer would!

- Look closely at details as you explore and imagine what the garden looks like from a bug's point of view.
- Use the space below to draw a picture of what you see.



**Draw a picture of the Cutting Garden from a bug's point of view.**

## Step 5 — Design with nature: Make a pressed flower suncatcher

### Try This!

Check here when you complete this step.



#### **IN THE FRENCH PARTERRE**

Visit the French Parterre to observe outdoor sculptures.

- How many different sculptures can you find in the garden? Which one is your favorite? Why?
- What do you notice about how these sculptures relate to the gardens around them?
- How does the art change the look of the area around it? How would the garden look different without the sculptures?



#### **IN THE C.W. POST TENT**

Pick up an art kit to create a pressed flower suncatcher, inspired by nature and Hillwood's gardens.

Follow the step-by-step instructions included in the art kit to make your suncatcher.

When you finish your project you can put your pressed flower suncatcher in a window in your home.

When you get home, notice how the suncatcher looks when the sun shines through the window. What do the pressed flowers look like in the sunlight? Make sure to look at your art at different times of day to see if it changes.