

# Shapes In Nature



**M**arjorie Merriweather Post, who once lived at Hillwood, surrounded herself with art, even outdoors in her gardens. Nature is full of shapes and patterns and is often reflected in the art here at Hillwood. Explore the gardens and look carefully at nature to discover the shapes and patterns around you.

## **How to Earn Your *Shapes in Nature* Badge:**

- Complete all the “Try This!” activities in this booklet.
- Use a Hillwood map to find locations mentioned.
- Mark the checkbox next to activities you’ve completed.
- Show your troop leader your completed packet. Your troop leader can purchase Shapes in Nature badges from the Girl Scout Council of the Nation’s Capital.

# Step 1 — Search for shapes in nature: Go on an outdoor scavenger hunt

## Try This!

Check here when you complete this step.



Visit the [JAPANESE-STYLE GARDEN](#) to find shapes in the garden.

You will find shapes in natural objects, like plants and rocks. You will also find shapes in objects made by people, like statues and lanterns.

Make tally marks to keep track of how many of each shape you find. An example is pictured in each category.

<p><b>CIRCLE</b></p> 	
<p><b>TRIANGLE</b></p> 	
<p><b>RECTANGLE</b></p> 	

**Did you find any other shapes in the garden? Draw them below!**

## Step 2 — Find and make patterns: Make a ginkgo leaf-patterned placemat

### Try This!

Check here when you complete this step.



Visit Hillwood's **CUTTING GARDEN** to see the leaves on the ginkgo tree starting to bud in early spring.

*photograph by Erik Kvalsvik*



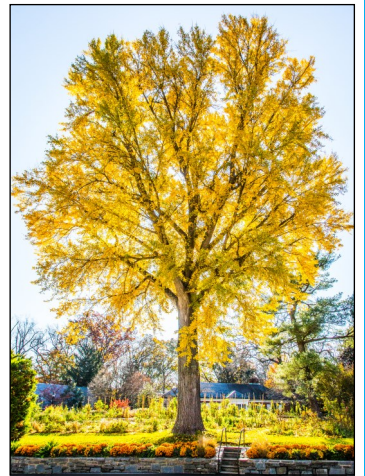
WINTER



SPRING



SUMMER



FALL

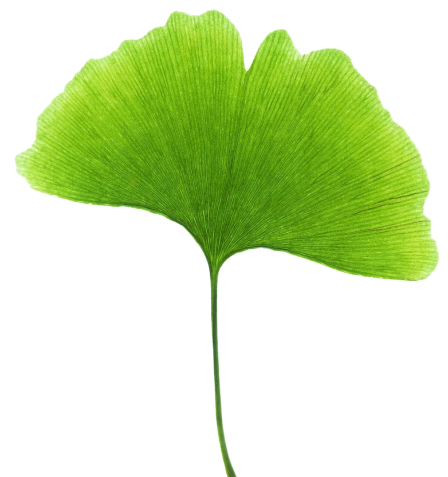
Ginkgo leaves have a distinct fan-like shape. In summer the leaves are bright green. In autumn they turn golden yellow before they fall off, leaving the tree's branches bare in winter. In spring, buds begin to form and grow again. This seasonal pattern repeats every year.

Look closely at a ginkgo leaf and you will see a pattern of lines (the leaf's veins) extending outward from the leaf's base to the edge of the fan.

A pattern is something that repeats over and over again in a regular or consistent way.

Visit the **ART PROJECT** to make your own patterns with ginkgo leaf shapes.

Decorate a placemat with paper cutouts of fan-shaped ginkgo leaves. You can make patterns using repeating arrangements of colors and shapes. Get creative!



## Step 3 — Create art inspired by nature: Make a wire tree sculpture

### Try This!

Check here when you complete this step.

Take a look at these photographs of some of the trees growing in Hillwood's gardens. Notice their shapes and colors.

#### **TREE SHAPES**



The Dawn Redwood has a **pyramid** shape, like a triangle.

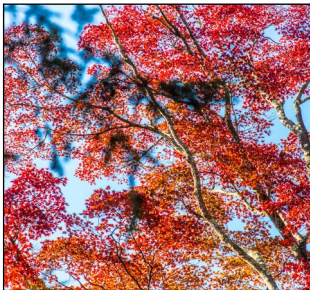


The American Elm has a **vase** shape, like an upside down triangle.



The Dwarf Japanese Cedar has a rounded **dome** shape.

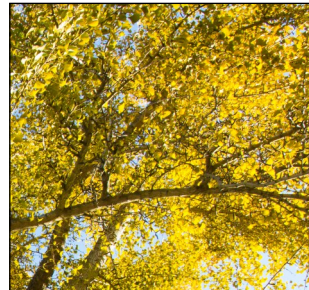
#### **TREE COLORS**



Japanese Maple



Blue Spruce



Ginkgo



Cherry Blossom

You can find shapes, colors, and patterns in nature. Art is also made with shapes, colors, and patterns!

Visit the **ART PROJECT** to make a wire tree sculpture inspired by the trees at Hillwood. You can get creative with what colors and shapes you'd like your wire tree to have. It does not need to look exactly like the trees you find in nature.

## Bonus Step! — Meet a birding expert and learn to identify birds by their shapes, colors, and patterns

### Try This!

Check here when you complete this step.



Visit the **C.W. POST TENT** to meet Sam Krause—a birding guide, photographer, and conservationist—to learn about birds and how to keep a scientific log.

Try these activities with her:

- Identify and name local birds
- Use binoculars to see what birds you can find in Hillwood’s gardens
- Collect and record data on birds that live at Hillwood

Meet Sam Krause, a birding guide, photographer, and activist.

Sam was first introduced to birding when she was nine years old. As a young girl, she wanted to work as a veterinarian to help injured animals and to photograph animals from around the world.

She now leads birding walks in parks across the DC area, where she educates people about birds and their ecosystems. She has traveled the world to study birds and to teach people about their importance and beauty.

Her mission in life is to advocate for the protection of birds and their many habitats.

