

Girl Scout Brownie

# Craft and Tinker



**M**arjorie Merriweather Post, who once lived at Hillwood, surrounded herself with art she could use in her everyday life including dishes, jewelry, furniture, and more. Explore Hillwood to discover art by makers who used their skill, imagination, tools, and materials to craft functional art. Then take inspiration from the art you see to design and create your own artwork!

## **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 Craft and Tinker badges from the Girl Scout Council of the Nation’s Capital.

## Step 1 — Explore making: learn from a maker who uses upcycled materials

### Try This!

Check here when you complete this step.



Visit the **C.W. POST TENT** to meet Zsameria Rayford, founder of SwapDC and an expert on creative reuse.

Try these activities with Zsameria:

- Feel fabric swatches to find out about different textiles and their impacts on our water and planet
- Ask about why and how SwapDC was founded and the positive impact it has on the local community
- Learn about the positive impact creative reuse can have on our environment

SwapDC was founded by Zsameria Rayford. It is the only creative recycling event in Washington, DC that fosters a fun and diverse community around swapping for residents who want to reduce, reuse, and live a sustainable lifestyle.

SwapDC aims to bring awareness to the consequences of consumerism on our environment and our culture.

Since its debut in 2015, SwapDC has successfully recycled over 8 tons and donated over 12,000 lbs. to local shelters and those in need to help close the textile loop.



## Step 2 — Learn the basics: Focus on materials to make paper bead jewelry

### Try This!

Check here when you complete this step.

Makers use a variety of materials including wood, fabric, clay, and metal to make their crafts. Here are examples of art at Hillwood made from different materials.

#### FABRIC



**Evening Dress**, Oldric Royce, Inc., New York, 1960, silk crepe, nylon organza chiffon, sequins (2016.3.1)  
*Gift of Steven Dye Post*

#### WOOD



**Chest of drawers**, Attributed to Jean-Henri Riesener, Paris, around 1775-80, wood marquetry, gilt bronze, marble (31.10)

#### GEMS AND METAL



**Necklace**, Harry Winston, New York, 1961, turquoises, diamonds, platinum, gold (17.73)

### IN THE C.W. POST TENT

Sometimes makers use brand new materials for their crafts, but other times they may find ways to reuse old materials.

**Creative reuse** or **upcycling** is an inventive way to take old, unwanted, or unused materials and turn them into something new and useful.

Visit the **ART PROJECT** to turn paper scraps into beautiful paper bead jewelry you can wear.

## Step 3— Figure out the function: Decorate a box to store your treasures

### Try This!

Check here when you complete this step.



#### IN THE MANSION

Art is all around us. Makers craft beautiful works of art that we can use in our daily lives. Explore Hillwood’s mansion to find artwork that can be used for everyday activities like getting dressed, eating a meal, or sitting down to relax.

You’ll find all sorts of useful items at Hillwood like the artworks pictured below. What other useful items can you find?



**Plate from the Rohan Service**  
Sèvres Porcelain Manufactory  
Sèvres, France, 1771  
Porcelain  
*Photographed by Brian Searby*  
(24.66)



**Armchair**  
Gobelins Tapestry Manufactory  
Louis Tessier (Designer)  
Paris, 1784-86 (tapestry),  
1800s (frame)  
Gilt wood, wool, silk  
(31.84)



**Evening Dress**  
Oldric Royce, Inc.  
New York, 1960  
Silk crepe, nylon organza chiffon, sequins  
*Gift of Steven Dye Post*  
(2016.3.1)

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

Now it is your turn to be the maker! Visit the **ART PROJECT** to decorate a box that you can use to store small items.

As you decorate your box, think about its **function**, or how you will use it.

- What will you store in the box?
- Will the decorations relate to the box’s function?
- Can you tinker with the materials provided to add special feature to your box, such as a handle on the lid, or legs to raise the box higher?

## Step 4 — Discover form and fit: Focus on function

### Try This!

Check here when you complete this step.



Makers need to think about how an item will be used when they design how it looks. The item's **function** (how it is used) influences its **form** (how it looks).

For example, here are three different types of bowls at Hillwood. Each bowl has a different size, shape, and design that relates to the way it is used.



**Form:** large bowl with lid  
**Function:** serving hot soup or stew

**Tureen**, Vincennes Porcelain manufactory, Vincennes, France, 1755, porcelain (24.1)



**Form:** bowl with handles and spout  
**Function:** pouring sauce

**Sauce boat**, Sèvres Porcelain Manufactory, Sèvres, France, 1785, porcelain (24.17)



**Form:** small, sectioned bowl  
**Function:** serving salt or spices

**Condiment dish**, Sèvres Porcelain Manufactory, Sèvres, France, 1700s, porcelain (24.30)

Choose a useful object like a box, a bag, or a cup. Draw two different versions of your object, each used for a different **function**. For example, you could draw a jewelry box and a lunch box. How would the two boxes look different?



## Step 5 — Tinker with your craft: Tailor it for a gift

### Try This!

Check here when you complete this step.



Two Russian princes gave this box as an anniversary gift to their parents over 100 years ago. Diamond letters (XXV) on the clasp stand for the number 25, the anniversary being celebrated. The initials of the princes and their parents are painted on the box's corners and the sides of the box are decorated with pictures of the family's palaces.



Each of these details make this a special, personalized gift, featuring things that are meaningful to the family.

**Music Box**, Firm of Fabergé, Henrik Wigström (workmaster), St. Petersburg, 1907, gold, enamel, diamonds, rubies (11.80)

As a maker, you can **tinker** with your craft to make changes. You might make small adjustments to make an item more useful or to make it unique or special for a particular person.

Tinker with the picture of the box below to add your own design. If you were making this box as a gift for a friend or family member what would you include?

