

Green² Troops: Cadette Book Artist Badge

Purpose: Discover the art of bookmaking and create your own while using sustainable, eco-friendly, and waste-free methods.

Overall Green² Strategies

- **Materials:** Use scrap paper, old envelopes, cereal boxes, and other repurposed materials.
- **Tools:** Borrow paper cutters, rulers, and awls from schools, libraries, or art friends.
- **Bindings:** Choose reusable or biodegradable binding materials like natural twine or cloth strips.
- **Decorations:** Use natural dyes, stamps, or drawings instead of stickers or purchased embellishments.

Step 1 – Explore the Art of Bookbinding

Goal: Learn different ways to make a book.

- Research bookbinding methods online or borrow books from the library.
- Visit a local print shop or bindery to see techniques firsthand.
- Take notes digitally to avoid extra paper use.

Step 2 – Get Familiar With the Tools

Goal: Learn how to use tools safely and effectively.

- Practice on scrap paper to avoid wasting new materials.
- Use reusable cutting mats, metal rulers, and repurposed cardboard for covers.
- Keep all leftover materials organized for future projects.

Step 3 – Try Out Different Styles

Goal: Make mini sample books to learn various bindings.

- Create tiny books from scrap materials to test techniques.
- Bind with natural twine, ribbon, or fabric strips from old clothing.
- Swap finished mini-books with troop members instead of buying new supplies.

Step 4 – Focus on Your Artistic Style

Goal: Decorate your book in a way that reflects you.

- Use natural dyes (coffee, tea, turmeric) to color paper.
- Stamp designs with found objects (leaf prints, corks, bottle caps).
- Repurpose old art, maps, or calendar pages as decorative covers.

Step 5 – Make and Share Your Book

Goal: Create a complete book and share it with others.

- Fill your book with hand-drawn art, poetry, or journaling instead of printing.
- Gift it in a reused box, jar, or fabric pouch.

- Share photos digitally and encourage others to try waste-free bookmaking.
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At-Home & Family Connection

- Make a small notebook for a family member using only household scraps.
 - Teach your family how to repair or rebind an old book instead of buying new.
 - Work together to create a family recipe or memory book from upcycled materials.
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Waste-Free Wrap-Up

- Reflect as a troop: Which binding method was easiest? Which looked best?
- Pass along leftover materials to another troop or school art program.
- Keep reusable tools in a shared troop craft bin for future projects.