

Green² Troops: Cadette Woodworker Badge

Purpose: Build confidence with tools and learn basic woodworking skills while using sustainable, salvaged, and zero-waste materials.

Overall Green² Strategies

- **Materials:** Use only scrap wood, reclaimed lumber, or leftover craft wood from hardware stores or construction sites.
 - **Tools:** Borrow or share tools within the troop, school, or community.
 - **Finishes:** Use natural oils, beeswax, or non-toxic stains.
 - **Project Planning:** Keep designs minimal and multifunctional to reduce waste.
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Step 1 – Swing a Hammer

Goal: Learn how to safely use basic hand tools.

- Use tools already owned by troop families, schools, or makerspaces.
 - Practice on scrap wood or repurposed boards.
 - Wear reusable cloth gloves and safety goggles instead of disposables.
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Step 2 – Keep It Level

Goal: Measure, mark, and level accurately.

- Use repurposed rulers, levels, and carpenter's squares.
 - Practice measuring on scrap cardboard or scrap wood before cutting.
 - Use a digital design app or chalk markings to sketch ideas first.
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Step 3 – Use a Saw

Goal: Learn how to safely use a saw under adult supervision.

- Cut only salvaged wood pieces or broken furniture parts.
 - Set up an outdoor “woodworking zone” to avoid wasteful drop cloths.
 - Sweep up sawdust for compost (if untreated wood) or use as mulch.
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Step 4 – Build Something

Goal: Make a simple project like a box, shelf, or birdhouse.

- Design with minimal cuts and no extra pieces.
 - Use screws or nails from previous projects or community donations.
 - Create items with a purpose—e.g., a compost caddy, seed-starting tray, or upcycled display shelf.
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Step 5 – Go the Extra Mile

Goal: Finish your project and make it shine.

- Sand with reused sanding blocks or cloths.

- Stain or seal using natural oils (olive, coconut, linseed) or beeswax.
 - Decorate with reusable stencils, woodburning tools, or eco-friendly paints.
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At-Home & Family Connection

- Help a family member repair or refinish a wooden item instead of replacing it.
 - Build a birdhouse or planter box together using salvaged wood.
 - Create a wood scrap bin at home for future reuse.
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Waste-Free Wrap-Up

- Reflect as a troop: What did you learn about reuse and craftsmanship?
- Donate any useful projects to schools, shelters, or libraries.
- Store leftover wood and tools for future Green² badge work or troop service projects.