

Fairy Garden

“Every garden is a story waiting to bloom—and fairies love a good story.”

Fairy gardens are tiny, enchanted landscapes filled with imagination, nature, and creativity. These magical miniature spaces help us connect with the natural world while learning about plants, ecosystems, artistic design, and community sharing.

In this patch program, we’ll explore how gardens support life, learn the history and meaning of fairy gardens, design and build your own whimsical world, and share your creation with others.

Step 1

DISCOVER

Let’s dive in and DISCOVER what fairy gardens are, how nature influences them, and where fairy and miniature gardens come from.

A fairy garden is a miniature landscape created to spark imagination and wonder. Fairy gardens are often made in containers, garden beds, or woodland nooks and include tiny plants, paths, houses, and decorations scaled to “fairy size.”

Fairy gardens are more than just whimsical art—when made with live plants, they are part of real ecosystems. Even small container gardens can:

- help attract pollinators,
- provide micro-habitats for insects, and
- support plant biodiversity.

Miniature gardens have roots in ancient cultures, but fairy gardens became especially popular in the early 20th century as miniature gardening grew as a hobby and design style. Fairy gardens blend folklore about fairies with gardening, imagination, and artistic expression.

Pick at least one activity to complete this step.

Activity 1: Fairy Garden Research

With a trusted adult’s help, head online or to the library to discover more about fairies and fairy gardens. Some things to explore include:

- Fairy tales or myths about fairies from different cultures.
- Where the modern fairy garden trend began.
- Small plants and natural materials that grow well in miniature gardens.

Activity 2: Fairy Lore Story Hunt

- Read or listen to at least three stories about fairies. Discover fun facts about each fairy or tradition and share what you learned.

Activity 3: Wild vs. Magical Gardens

- Visit a garden or outdoor space and observe how plants, insects, and soil interact. Imagine how a fairy might use real plants for food, shelter, or play.



Fun Facts About Fairies and Fairy Gardens:

- Fairies blend in easily due to their creative outfit choices made from leaves and flower petals.
- Fairies have extra-sensitive ears, allowing them to hear approaching footsteps so they can flutter away into flowers to hide.
- Flower fairies love music and dancing and host celebrations throughout the year.



Step 2

CONNECT

Now the fun really begins—CONNECT with fairies and fairy gardens by planning and creating your own enchanted space!

Each fairy garden is unique—just like each fairy! You can be as creative as you'd like, but planning ahead helps make sure your fairy has room for everything they need.

Things to consider when designing a fairy garden:

- Fairies need a space of their own for dancing, celebrations, and festivals.
- Think about flowers that could become hats, clothing, or bedding for fairies.
- Plan furniture where fairies can sit, rest, and sleep.
- Think about the scale of your garden. How big are your fairies?
- Where will the house, path, flowers, and other features go?
- Choose plants that stay small or are slow growing (like mosses, herbs, or tiny succulents).
- What materials will you use in your garden? You can use sticks, stones, shells, clay, or recycled materials for structures.

Here are some ideas and materials you can use to build your garden:

House/Shelter: You can use store-bought clay or make your own. Once the shelter is built, you will need to let the clay dry before adding it to your garden.

Fairy Tent: To make a tent, you can use sticks, string, or a twist tie, scissors, and fabric scraps. Secure sticks or twigs together to make a tent frame, then cut your fabric scraps to fit over the frame to provide your fairy with a cozy, safe tent.

Firepit: To create a firepit, you'll need pebbles and sticks. Find a spot in your fairy garden for your fairy to build her own fire. Place pebbles in a small circle and add sticks to the middle to build your fairy her own fire pit.

Fence/Walkways: For these items, you'll need sticks or toothpicks and pebbles. Insert the toothpicks closely into the soil/ground of your fairy garden to form a fence. Place pebbles along the walkway so your fairy can travel throughout the garden.

Mini Furniture: You can use twigs, acorns, or clay to create mini furniture for your fairy to sit on.

Plants: You can plant seeds or small plants in your fairy garden. You can even plant artificial flowers. Here are some plants that fairies especially love:

- Bluebells: Fairies are summoned to their dances by the ringing of these tiny flowers.
- Mushrooms: Fairies use these as tables and stools.
- Peonies: Fairies use these to protect children and use the seeds for necklaces.
- Poppies: These can be used to bring fairies into your dreams.
- Ragwort, cabbage stalks, grass, and straw: All of these are used by fairies for transportation—sort of like how a witch uses a broom!

Once you have all your supplies and items, construct your garden and make it magical!

Make your own clay!

Materials:

Tablespoon of vegetable oil
1/2 cup of water
1 cup of flour
1/2 cup of salt
Optional: food coloring

Directions:

1. In a medium bowl, mix together the flour and salt.
2. Add the water and oil to the flour/salt mixture.
3. Using your hands or a spoon, mix to form a smooth ball of dough. You may need to add a little bit more water until it's a smooth ball.
4. Optional: Add food coloring until the dough is the desired color.

Step 3

TAKE ACTION

Once you've built your fairy garden, it's time to TAKE ACTION and share with others.

Choose at least one activity to complete this step.

Activity 1: Fairy Garden Showcase

- Host a fairy garden party and invite family, friends, or other Girl Scouts to share creations and explain their designs. You could even dress like fairies and have your own celebration and dance!

Activity 2: Community Fairy Walk

- With permission, create a short "fairy trail" in a local garden, park, or community space using safe, temporary materials.

Activity 3: Story & Garden Sharing

- Write or record a fairy garden story and share it with others. Include photos of your garden and the inspiration behind your design.

All done? CONGRATULATIONS!

You've completed all the necessary steps to earn the Fairy Garden patch.



After completing the activities from each step, visit or call a Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania retail shop at 800-248-3355 to purchase your patch or order them on the [fun patch order form](#).* A patch may be worn on the back of a vest, sash, or tunic.

*The patch shown may be substituted with a similar patch, based on availability.