



**Baltimore Woods
Nature Center**
Nature in your hands

Naturally Artful

To all the mother and mother figures out there: You rock. Seriously. Your jobs are non-stop, 24/7, 365 days. You hike through each day with a skill and energy that even momma grizzly bears would wonder at. Mommas, Mums, Mothers, Ma's, you deserve to be celebrated every day. Let's use this Mother's Day to say from the bottom of our hearts, "Thank you!" Below are projects to celebrate you and to get you outside.

Nature Collage

With this project, you get to use your creative abilities to make a collage that utilizes materials found outside your home. Want inspiration? Check out this [collage collection from Art Camp](#).

You will need:

- A piece of cardboard (can be as large or small as you like. Can be a circle, square, triangle, etc.)
- Glue
- Something to color with like paint, colored pencils, markers
- Pieces collected from outside in your yard like pinecones, small stones, twigs, dry grass and leaves, etc. If you are planning to collect from parks, preserves or unique areas, please check ahead and make sure that it is allowed.
- If you don't live near a space with plentiful outdoor space, go ahead and gather materials like magazines and art supplies to create a nature-themed collage.
- Anything else you would like to add to this collage like glitter, beads, etc.

Steps:

- 1.) Gather your materials from outside around your home. If they're wet, let them dry first.
- 2.) Cut a piece of cardboard to your liking and preferred shape. Gather all of your art supplies.
- 3.) Get to making! With glue, stick your materials to the cardboard in whatever fashion speaks to you. Paint a stick and glue it at an angle, put seed pods in a row, paint pinecone tips and attach. Whatever speaks to your inner creative, follow that. You can make this collage as full or as minimal as you would like.
- 4.) Allow the collage to dry for several hours without disturbance.



Painted Stones

For this project try to find smooth stones that you can easily paint on. If you can't find stones around your outside space, craft stores and hardware stores can have stones for purchase.

Materials:

- Rocks! Stones of all different shapes and sizes, although stones with smooth surfaces work best
- Paint, permanent markers, paint markers
- Paintbrushes
- Newspaper

Steps:

- 1.) Collect as many stones as you feel like painting.
- 2.) Lay down newspaper on a flat surface, gather paint and paintbrushes
- 3.) Pick a rock and get to painting! You can paint a mini-scene, an animal. You can paint on a word or a saying that is meaningful to you. You can make a repeating pattern like a mandala. Try painting some stones more minimal (with less color and patterns) and some more bright and funky.
- 4.) Allow these rocks to dry until the paint is dry to the touch. Place these rocks at the foot of a potted plant, on a window sill or hide them in a secret place for someone to find.

