

## **SENIOR: TEXTILE ARTIST**

Hey Girl Scout! When you see all the colors and textures of fabrics and yarns, do you dream up a million things to do with them? This is your chance to turn those visions into reality. Learn about the world of textile arts, and make two projects! When you have earned this badge, you'll have learned the basics of textile art and you will have two fantastic projects to show for it.

### **Step 1: Choose your textile art.**

1. First, find out the many varieties of textiles, from intricate embroidery to colorful quilts to cozy knitted scarves. This is the time to pick one textile art to learn. You need to decide if certain materials appeal to you more than others, or if one art's history inspires you to create.
2. Look into two different textile arts from other countries. In Mexico's Oaxacan lowlands, women weave sarongs using indigo-dyed thread. Among America's Amish, women make the same graphic quilts their grandmothers did. Use these or other examples you discover to pick your textile.
3. Questions to find the answers to. How and when did these arts begin? How have they changed? How do artists today add a modern twist to what they make?

Supplies:

1. Computer
2. Paper and pencil

### **Step 2: Find your tools and materials.**

1. To embroider you need to know about embroidery thread, hoops, needles, types of fabric, and the stitches you might use. Quilters use quilting hoops or frames, and knitting requires different needles and types of yarn. This is the time to discover what you will need. Pick your craft type, then follow what to do.
2. Thread-based craft. Visit a fabric store and find out about needles and thread. Ask for thread samples, tape them to a heavy paperboard or in a journal and label them with information about texture and color. Add information on needles and you will have a handy reference guide.
3. Yarn-based craft. visit a yarn or fabric store and explore types of needles and different textures, wights, and colors of yarn. make a yarn-reference guide.
4. Quitting project. Visit a fabric store and explore needles, threads, fabrics, tools, and racks for quilting. Ask for fabric swatches for your reference guide.

Supplies:

1. Notebook
2. Pencils

### **Step 3: Learn the basics.**

1. Now that you have your materials and tools, it is time to try them out.
2. Learn the basics on your own. Find out all you can by looking at books, magazines, or online communities that specialize in your craft. Also try to reach out to a friend or family member who may have knowledge on this specific craft.

Supplies:

1. Computer

**Step 4: Make something for everyday use.**

1. Now make a functional, useful item that serves an everyday purpose. Try knitted mittens to keep your hand warm, a phone holder to attach to your backpack, or patchwork curtains to shade a window. Choose one of the following and get to making.
2. Make something to wear. Check magazines, online sites, or clothing stores for inspiration. Try making a hat or scarf.
3. Create something useful for your home or meeting place. You might make a patchwork tablecloth, embroider napkins, cross-stitch a pillow cover, or make a quilt.
4. Make an accessory. Create a phone holder, purse, or reusable tote bag.

Supplies:

1. Materials from step 2 that apply to your craft.

**Step 5: Create a gift or item for a special occasion.**

1. Put your new crafting skills to good use and create something lovely for someone else. Try something different than what you made in the previous step.
2. Try a gift for an anniversary, baby shower, or birthday. Or try something to mark a special occasion. Or you could even make something for charity.