

Whatever you  
make with  
color or clay,  
Do it yourself  
in your very  
own way.

Do not copy  
what others do,  
For they are  
they, and you  
are you!

—Brownie Girl Scout  
Handbook, 1963



# Potter

**C**rafts made with clay have been around for thousands of years. People who study history have found ancient clay art and everyday objects. Work your way through these steps to become a clay artist yourself!

## Steps

1. Find some pottery
2. Get to know clay
3. Make a simple pot
4. Make an art piece
5. Paint and glaze!

## Purpose

When I've earned this badge, I'll be able to make my own projects out of clay.



STEP

# 2 Get to know clay

Visit with a clay expert! Ask this person to tell you about scoring, storing, wedging, and firing, and why each of these is important.

### CHOICES – DO ONE:

Visit a potter's studio. A clay artist is often called a potter.

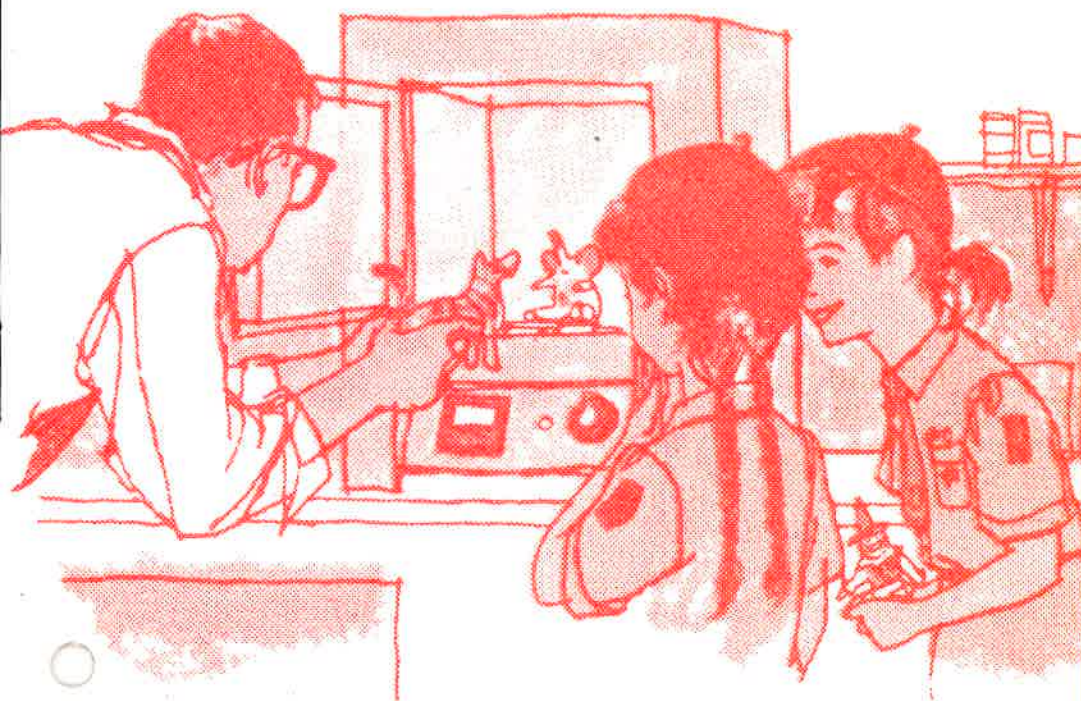
OR

Invite a craft teacher to your meeting. Ask them to bring clay samples, if possible.

OR

Go to a pottery class at a community center. Many offer classes for beginners.

**Tip:** Ask this expert to help you through the rest of the steps in the badge.



## Tips for More Pottery Fun!

Ask your expert to show you how a pot is “thrown” on a wheel.

Ask your teacher, potter, or volunteer if they can help you get your pottery fired. Otherwise, you can let it dry on its own. Keep in mind, if you want to eat or drink from any pottery, it needs to be properly glazed and fired.

## Words Worth Knowing

In pottery, to FIRE means to bake the clay until it is hardened. Clay is fired in very hot ovens called KILNS.

## STEP

# 3 Make a simple pot

Pots have been made from clay for thousands of years. Pots do more than hold flowers! People carry water, eat food, and drink from them. Make your own simple pot. You could use it to hold jewelry, candy, or pencils.

### CHOICES – DO ONE:

**Make a pinch pot.** See the directions for help. Hint: In step 2, start pinching at the bottom of your container and move slowly to the top.

**OR**

**Make a coil pot.** A coil pot is made from “coils” of clay. See the directions for help.

FOR MORE **FUN**: Stack your coils into interesting shapes!

**OR**

**Make a slab pot.** A slab is a piece of clay rolled flat. See the directions for help.

FOR MORE **FUN**: Try building a pot on a triangular or square base.

## Words Worth Knowing

In pottery, to **SCORE** means to scratch tiny crisscrossing lines on two pieces of clay that you want to stick together.

## pinch pot

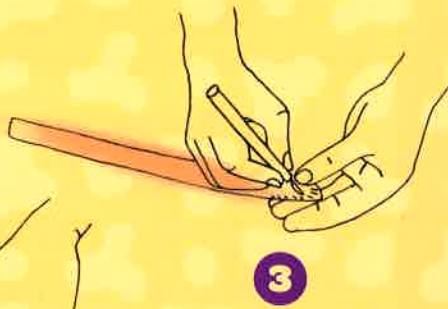
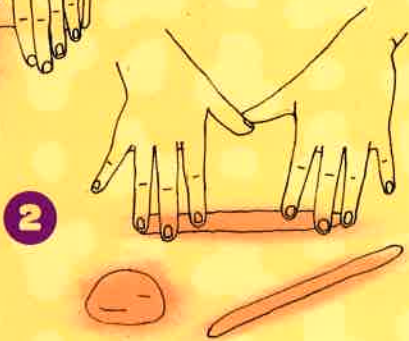
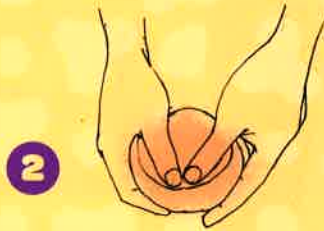
1. Use your thumbs to make a dent in a ball of clay.
2. Pinch around the dent to make the sides of the pot. Try to keep an even thickness around your pot.
3. Ta-da!

## coil pot

1. Roll out a ball of clay to  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thickness. Cut a circular base with a cookie cutter or a cup.
2. Roll lumps of clay into snakes to make coils for your pot.
3. Score lines across your snakes and around the edge of your base. Use a pen, pencil, toothpick, or clay tool to score. Moisten clay with water where it will be joined.
4. Press the first coil to the base, scored sides together.
5. Keep going with the rest of your coils until your pot is as tall as you want it! Ta-da!

## slab pot

1. Roll out a ball of clay to  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thickness. Cut out a circle to be your base. Then, cut out a rectangular slab. This slab is your pot's wall. (Make sure it will fit around your base!)
2. Score around the edge of your base.
3. Score one end of your slab. Wet the scored area.
4. Roll the slab into a tube and press it to itself to make the wall of your pot. Score the bottom edge. Wet the scored edges of the wall and base. Now stick the wall, scored-side down, onto the base. Ta-da!





## Sculpture!

Juliette Gordon Low liked creating all kinds of art, but her favorite was sculpting. She sculpted busts, statues, and figures of many friends and family members. Today, some of her sculptures—including the bust of her niece Daisy Doots—can be seen at the Birthplace in Savannah, Georgia.



Juliette Gordon Low made this sculpture of her niece, who was the first American Girl Scout!

## STEP 4 Make an art piece

Make some clay decoration.

### CHOICES – DO ONE:

- Decorate a tile.** Turn a square of clay into art. Try making a handprint or stamping a design with rubber stamps. You can also use small tools, like a pencil or tweezers, to draw designs in your tile. When it's dry, paint it with acrylic paints.

FOR MORE FUN: Find pictures of tiles from other countries and copy one of the designs.

OR

- Make a pinch or slab sculpture.** Make a clay sculpture of a house, pet, car, or animal. Make "hair," grass, or other decoration by squeezing clay through a garlic press.

FOR MORE FUN: Make a sculpture of something you like to imagine, like a castle or a spaceship.

OR

- Make beads for jewelry.** Roll balls of clay into beads. Then use a straw, toothpick, or pencil to make holes so you can string them together. You could make them out of colored modeling clay or paint plain clay.

**Tip:** Clay is heavy to wear, so keep your beads small.



Photos by Joe Byrd. Painting by Alice Parker Hoyt and bust by Juliette Gordon Low, from the collection of the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace, Girl Scout National Center.



STEP  
**5** **Paint  
and glaze!**

**Glaze is special clay paint. It changes in heat to make bright colors and add shine. Make sure a potter or teacher helps you use glaze.**

**CHOICES – DO ONE:**

**Dip your pottery.** Fill a container with glaze and dip your pot in. Make sure there is extra room in the container so it doesn't overflow. Keep your pottery level and use slow movements.

**OR**

**Paint on glaze.** Using a regular paintbrush, paint glaze on your pottery. Try to paint evenly—that means with the same amount on all parts of the pot. (If you dipped your pottery first, let that dry before you start painting.)

**OR**

**Sponge paint your pottery.** Dip your sponge in the glaze. Press it gently onto your pottery. You can use different glaze colors and sponges in different shapes. A sponge gives a cool pattern to glaze.



**TIPS  
FOR STEP 5**

- 1.** You will need clay that is already fired. This is called bisque ware.
- 2.** You can find bisque ware at a pottery-paint store.
- 3.** Ask your expert how potters use wax, squeeze bottles, and stencils. Maybe you can try it, too!



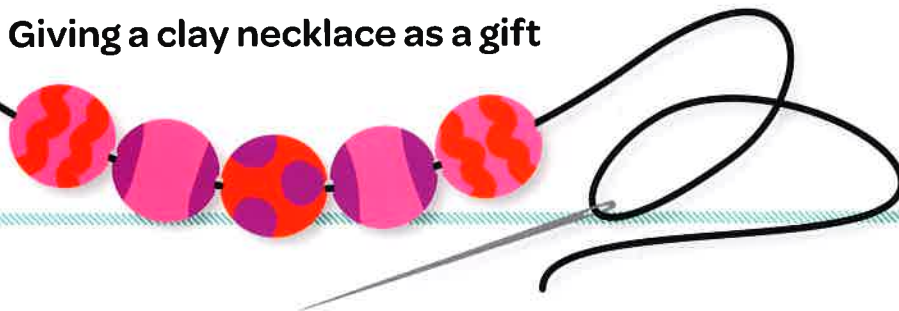


## **Add the Badge to Your Journey**

For step 2, ask your expert for some examples about how clay pots have been used all around the world to help women carry and store water. Then see if you can find a picture of some pots used to carry water, and add it to your Brownie team's water map as a way to remember how precious Earth's water is.

### **Now that I've earned this badge, I can give service by:**

- Teaching a Daisy to make a simple pot
- Helping my Brownie group organize an art show to share our pottery
- Giving a clay necklace as a gift



**I'm inspired to:**