

Fantastical Fairy Houses

By Ellie Holter SCA Interpretive Ranger

The great outdoors is filled with a magic that may only appear to those who seek the whimsical in the everyday, who are not contented with the straightforward view that many of us take, but rather ask the what-ifs and allow their imaginations to run wild. If we are to take on this perspective, we may be delighted in the little things, slowing down and enjoying our time spent in nature. One particular activity that combines the magic of imagination with the beauty of the great outdoors is building fairy houses!

This activity is free and can be done from the mountains to the sea and almost anywhere between; all you need to build a fairy house is a good location and your imagination! You may choose to build individually or as a team, that's up to you! For these reasons, fairy house building is a great way for people of all ages and abilities to spend time outside.

Fairy houses are tiny structures built entirely out of natural materials we can find all around us when we go outside, such as fallen leaves, sticks, acorns, shells, and pine cones. This type of art is called ephemeral, which means that it isn't going to last forever. It is created to be enjoyed temporarily and then decompose back into the earth. Fairy houses are just one example of ephemeral art; sand castles are also ephemeral art (and could even be considered fairy houses!). Ephemeral art is super cool because it looks a little different each time we do it. When we engage in this art form, it is important to remember that we shouldn't take any living organisms and stick to the things that have already fallen to the ground (dead and down) that way we don't hurt any of the little plants and animals while they do their best to grow.

So, now that you are ready to build your very own fairy home, how should you do it?

~~~~~ 🧚 How to Build Your Very Own Fairy House 🧚 ~~~~~  
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1. Choose Your Building Location ~ Maybe the nook of a tree trunk or a hollow old stump could be the perfect spot!
2. Gather Materials ~ Be sure to choose plant materials that are already dead and down (Do your best not to pick living plants)

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<https://nourishingmyscholar.com/making-nature-fairies/>

3. Build a Home a Fairy or Other Magical Creature Would Enjoy ~ Use Your Imagination and Make it Your Own!



Photos by Ellie Holter

4. Leave Your Magnificent Creation to be used by the Fairies! ~ Maybe you can even take a photo to remember what you've done

Now that you've read this blog post, I hope you're inspired and ready to make a fairy house or maybe a different type of ephemeral art the next time you explore the outdoors!

Sources:

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