

**Young Cultivator
Merit Badges**

Cleaning Up

1. Trash Talk

Beginner Level

- With the help of your mentoring Sister or an adult, talk with your local agencies to see what items your city will recycle, where the drop-off stations are, or if they offer curbside pick-up.
- In a journal or notebook, write down what you find.

Intermediate Level

- Set up a recycling center in your home to help your family easily sort out their recyclables. Properly label each bin so that they are easy to identify. Labeling can be either words or pictures.

Expert Level

- If you live in a county that pays for recycled bottles and cans, start a savings account from the money earned.
- Give a report to your family, a school or home-school club, a local Farmgirl Chapter, or a Young Cultivators group discussing the steps you have taken for this badge, and what you learned in the process, including whether your county pays for recycled materials or not.

Cleaning Up

2. It's In The Bag

Beginner Level

- Collect three reusable bags to use for shopping.

Intermediate Level

- Be responsible for grabbing the bags before heading out for shopping.
- After you have, “grabbed the bags” for three separate shopping trips, give a report to your mentoring Sister, family, school or home-school club, local Farmgirl Chapter, or Young Cultivators group. Include any hints you may have on how to remember to grab the bags. Do not forget to show off your favorite bag.

Expert Level

- Organize a reusable bag swap with friends or family; make a game out of the swap.

Cleaning Up

3. It's Not Easy Being Green

Beginner Level

- Talk with family members and choose two things that you (as a family), can do to go green.
- Host a “go green” family meeting.

Intermediate Level

- Take those ideas and create a workable plan.

Expert Level

- Work the plan for three weeks and then give a report to your family, a school or homeschool club, a local Farmgirl Chapter, or a Young Cultivators group.

Cleaning Up

4. Energize Me

Beginner Level

- Count the things in and around your house that rely on energy for use. Make a list of how your food is kept cold, how the car starts, and how you stay warm. Not only do cars and light bulbs need energy, you do too! What gives you energy and keeps you working?

Intermediate Level

- Visit a dam or a wind farm with your mentoring Sister. Take a tour with a guide that can explain the way the power of water supplies electricity.

Expert Level

- Conduct your own energy experiment at home. Some suggestions are: build a model of a dam, make a battery using lemons, or “bend” running water with static electricity. You can find instructions for many science projects at your local library or through the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency’s websites.

Cleaning Up

5. Water Conservation

Beginner Level

- Talk to your family and think of ways that you (as a family) can save water.
- Make a plan to lower your family's water usage.

Intermediate Level

- Keep track of everything you do to save water for three weeks.

Expert Level

- At the end of three weeks, give a report on water conservation to your family, a school or homeschool club, a local Farmgirl Chapter, or a Young Cultivators group.
- Continue to conserve water.

Each Other

1. Let's Go To Town

Beginner Level

- Visit your local library to sign up for a library card of your own.
- Request a schedule of activities the library has for people your age.

Intermediate Level

- Research the history of your community or county. Is your community famous for anything? Is there anyone famous or notorious in its history? Where do the local names come from?
- Prepare a presentation of some of the most interesting facts, and share them with your family, a school or home-school club, a local Farmgirl Chapter, or a Young Cultivators group.

Expert Level

- Attend at least three separate events at the library, or through any other community programs or clubs, such as after-school programs, community enrichment, or other social clubs that your community offers. Open yourself up to new things and new friends.
- If you are an older student and no programs are available, ask one of these groups what you can do to help them. Then, donate a total of at least one hour helping out. You could even play a role in organizing a local event for kids your age!

Each Other

2. Thank you!

Beginner Level

- Write or draw in a gratitude journal daily for two weeks.

Intermediate Level

- Express your gratitude in a letter or a drawing to the public servants of your town, such as the police, firefighters, your mail carrier, your dentist or a doctor, or someone else you know who's done things for you or your family. (If you are younger, a picture says a thousand words.) Instead of a letter or drawing, you could offer your mail carrier some lemonade on a hot day, or you and a group of friends could go to your local fire department and wash their fire truck. Be creative.

Expert Level

- Do something to show your appreciation for your family. Help your parents make dinner; have a day of helping with your younger siblings; give a special gift to your older siblings or your grandparents; or do other things that show how much you appreciate them.

Each Other

3. Families Forever

Beginner Level

- Host a game night with your family. To qualify, the TV must be turned off. Bring out your favorite board games.

Intermediate Level

- Take turns reading to one another. Choose a classic like “Charlotte’s Web” or “The Hobbit.”

Expert Level

- Put on a family talent or skit night. You are the director. “Let ‘em roll.”

Each Other

4. Big Kid Now

Beginner Level

- Research what you want to be when you grow up.
- Go to the library and pick out a book that explains what a day-in-the-life of that profession is like.

Intermediate Level

- Dress up as what you want to be when you grow up and give a presentation to your family on what you learned and why it is the best job. (You can keep your costume for Halloween.)

Expert Level

- Shadow a family member, friend, or person that works in the career path you want when you grow up. Hang out with them for a day or visit them with your mentoring Sister to see what they do. Can you see yourself doing their job? What is your favorite part about what they do?

Each Other

5. Community Service

Beginner Level

- Spend time with your elders. Visit a retirement home, your local senior center, or a neighbor or family member.

Intermediate Level

- Visit your local food bank or meal center. Help organize or serve food.

Expert Level

- Help out at a fundraiser in your community. Or, host your own and donate the proceeds to charity.

Each Other

6. Badgered for Books

Beginner Level

- Have a parent sign you up for your own library card. If you already have one, use it to check out five new books.
- What do you like about your new books? Do they rhyme? Are the illustrations good? In your opinion, what makes a good book? Write down or discuss your answers with your farmgirl mentor.
- Keep track of the books you've read on your own and the ones your parents read aloud to you.

Intermediate Level

- Organize your family's book collection. You can alphabetize them or arrange them according to color or subject.
- Loan out a favorite book to a friend, but remember to write your name and phone number in it first.
- Read three books: one fairytale or mythology story, one fiction, and one that is based on a true story or character.

Expert Level

- Have a book party or start your very own book club. Invite your friends with homemade invitations and encourage everyone to dress as their favorite book character. See if you can guess one another's costume idea.
- Read five new books.
- Write a book report/review about your favorite or least favorite book you've read so far.

Farm Kitchen

1. Table Talk

Beginner Level

- Set the table at least one night a week for one month. If your family is not accustomed to sitting together for dinner, this will be a great opportunity for you to bring them all together.

Intermediate Level

- Working with an adult or sibling, wash, dry, or put dinner dishes away one night a week for a month. During this time, take the time to really visit with the family member you are working with. Take pride in a job well done.

Expert Level

- Plan an entire meal and help prepare it. Be adventurous and try a food you have not tried yet.

Farm Kitchen

2. Know Your Food

Beginner Level

- Replace one dessert a week with an un-sweetened fruit or fruit dish.

Intermediate Level

- Try at least one new fruit or veggie a week for four weeks.
- Report what you liked and what you disliked to your mentoring Sister, family, school or home-school club, local Farmgirl Chapter, or Young Cultivators group.

Expert Level

- Become a sprout farmer. For further instructions, see “**MaryJane’s Idea book.**”

Farm Kitchen

3. All Dried Up

Beginner Level

- With the chef of your family, go into your kitchen cupboards to learn about the herbs he or she uses. Taste them to see which ones you like and dislike.

Intermediate Level

- Ask your parents for permission to cut some fresh herbs from the garden or to buy some fresh herbs of your choosing. Try them. Do your likes and dislikes change when the herbs are fresh?

Expert Level

- Hang your herbs up to dry.
- Assist the chef of the family in preparing a dish that uses your favorite herb.
- You can also package your dried herbs and give them away as gifts.

Farm Kitchen

4. Make It Fruity

Beginner Level

- With your mentoring Sister, go berry picking at a local farm or CSA.

Intermediate Level

- Find out how to preserve whole fruit by drying it.
- Look up ways to store it in airtight containers, and make room in a cool, dark, dry place for storing.

Expert Level

- Make your own fruit leather.

Farm Kitchen

5. Icing on the Cake

Beginner Level

- Think of fun ways to decorate a cake, like with nuts or dried fruit.

Intermediate Level

- With your Sisterhood mentor or parent, bake a cake from scratch.

Expert Level

- Decorate the cake. If you can, take a picture of the finished product before it's eaten.

Farm Kitchen

6. Do You Know the Muffin Man?

Beginner Level

- What's your favorite kind of muffin? Do you like the top or the bottom better?
- Decide to try a new muffin flavor next time you get the chance.

Intermediate Level

- Find a basic muffin recipe. First make the basic kind. Then experiment with "mix-ins."
- What was the best flavor combination?

Expert Level

- Make three different kinds of muffins.
- Package them in a nice way and deliver them to your neighbors or friends.
- If you could open your own bakery specializing in muffins, what would you name it? Design your menu.

Farm Kitchen

7. Mmmm Chocolate!

Beginner Level

- Ask your librarian for a book about the history of chocolate for children. Some suggestions: *Smart About Chocolate!* by Sandra Markle, *No Monkeys, No Chocolate* by Melissa Stewart and Alan Young, or *Chocolate: Riches from the Rainforest* by Robert Burleigh.

Intermediate Level

- Sample three different types of chocolate: dark, milk, and white. Can you taste the difference with your eyes closed? Which is your favorite?
- Pick out a chocolate recipe to make with your farmgirl mentor.

Expert Level

- Make your chocolate recipe and serve to your family. Tell them about the process of chocolate making while they're sampling.
- Read the book or watch the film, *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*. Bonus points for doing both.

Farm Kitchen

8. Palate Pleasers

Beginner Level

- Ask your parents if you're a picky eater. Find out why.
- Using a cookbook or the Internet, pick out a food to taste that you have never tried before. Something unusual—the stranger, the better! If you're stumped for ideas, here are a few: dragon fruit, sardines, vegemite, seaweed, oysters.

Intermediate Level

- Shop for your new food. Is it small or large? Sweet or savory? Cooked or raw?
- Once you've tried your new food, be honest with your farmgirl mentor if you liked it.
- Pick out two new foods to try, whether at the grocery store or the next time you're in a restaurant.

Expert Level

- Out of the new foods you've tried, which was your favorite? Decide, and convince a fellow picky eater friend to try it, too.
- Learn about some different ethnicities of food. You may have had pizza from Italy, or tacos from Mexico, or egg rolls from China, but what do people eat in Africa? Or Denmark? Or Germany? Using your library card, check out some cookbooks from different areas of the world and design your own exotic dream restaurant, complete with menu ideas. If your family is game, dedicate a whole dinner to one area of the globe and help your family cook it.

Garden Gate

1. Bloom Where You're Planted

Beginner Level

- Collect five native flowers and press them.
- When dry, decoupage or in some way mount them onto a piece of paper. Next to the flower, write a brief description of their habitat or where you found them.

Intermediate Level

- Show and tell. Share with your mentoring Sister, family, a school or home-school club, a local Farmgirl Chapter, or a Young Cultivators group what you have learned.
- Find the scientific names for the flowers and learn to pronounce them. If you are older, look up some more information about the plant and its habitat, and see if there's anything else of special interest. While sharing, include everything you learned.

Expert Level

- Plant at least one native tree or shrub in your yard that will supply much needed habitat for your neighborhood insects and birds.

Garden Gate

2. Gone To The Birds

Beginner Level

- Keep a diary (of words or pictures) of the birds that visit your yard or park. Watch them for two weeks, keeping notes of which ones come and go.

Intermediate Level

- Identify the birds you see. You can use the internet, ask your mentoring Sister or an adult, or look them up in a field guide or encyclopedia. In your journal, make sure to keep track of what you learn.

Expert Level

- Find out what the birds that frequent your yard like to nibble on and supply them with a bird feeder and bath.

Garden Gate

3. Horsing Around

Beginner Level

- With the assistance of your mentoring Sister or your parents, drive or walk around your town, county, or neighborhood taking time to admire the horses in the area.
- Take photos of what you see (if you can). If you cannot, then draw pictures of what you saw.

Intermediate Level

- Go to your local library and thumb through books about horses. Choose your favorite breed and write down the name of the breed and the reason you have chosen it.

Expert Level

- Give yourself the opportunity to “meet” a horse. You might do so by asking for help from a neighbor, a farmgirl you know, a local 4-H, or a riding club.
- Then report to your family, school or home-school club, local Farmgirl Chapter, or Young Cultivators group about your experience.
- If you own a horse, offer to make your horse available to others who do not have one, and to tell them all about it.

Garden Gate

4. Green Thumb Kids

Beginner Level

- Try a fruit or vegetable that you would not normally eat. Talk with your mentoring Sister about why you do or don't like it.
- Identify your favorite fruit or vegetable.

Intermediate Level

- Visit a local u-pick farm or a farmers' market. Look for your favorite fruit or vegetable. Discuss why it is or isn't there and why the organic version is better for you.

Expert Level

- Plant your favorite fruit or vegetable in a garden or in a container (strawberries, peas, and spinach are all easy to grow).
- Learn how to take care of your plant organically. Your reward? Yummy, healthy vegetables!

Garden Gate

5. Get Buggy

Beginner Level

- There are way more insects doing good things for us than insects “bugging” us. Create an insect journal and make a list of some of the ways that insects help.

Intermediate Level

- Go out to your yard or garden and observe all the insects you see. Look on flowers, under rocks, and on trees. Write down your observations in your journal.

Expert Level

- Identify the insects you saw. You can use the Internet, ask your mentoring sister or an adult, or look them up in a field guide or encyclopedia. In your journal, make sure to keep track of what you learn.

Garden Gate

6. Bovine Buddy

Beginner Level

- With the assistance of your mentoring Sister or your parents or grandparents, drive or walk around your town, county, or neighborhood, taking time to admire the cattle in your area.
- Take photos of what you see if you can. If you cannot, then draw pictures of what you saw.

Intermediate Level

- Find a bovine buddy to adopt. You might do so by asking for help from a neighbor, a farmgirl you know, a local 4-H club, or a relative.

Expert Level

- Write down the breed of your animal and the reason you chose it. Locate a book or find information online about your particular breed of animal.
- Keep a diary on your animal to track expenses and monitor its growth.
- Present or tell all about your animal to your family, school or homeschool club, local Farmgirl Chapter, or Young Cultivators group.

February, 2016 Edition

Garden Gate

7. Farmyard to Kitchen

Beginner Level

- Learn about: What animals produce eggs, and what animals produce dairy? What makes eggs and dairy so good for you? What kinds of things do we eat that are made from eggs and dairy?
- Use organic farm eggs when cooking for a week. Try cream-top cow milk (if available) or organic whole milk for a week. Try sheep or goat's milk as an alternative.

Intermediate Level

- Learn about two different varieties of chickens. What do the chicks look like, and what will they look like when they're all grown up? What color eggs will they lay?
- Learn about two kinds of dairy animals (cows, sheep, goats). What do the calves, lambs, or kids look like? What will they look like grown up? How long does it take before they can become a milking animal?
- Try one new type of dairy or egg product a week for four weeks. Report what you liked and didn't like.

Expert Level

- With the help of a parent, a relative, or your mentoring Sister, raise some chicks yourself. Learn about their habits and watch them grow up. Learn to take care of them and eventually provide eggs for your own kitchen. If you already have chickens, teach a friend about raising them.
- With the help of a parent, a relative, or your mentoring Sister, find a way to learn to milk a dairy animal. Many farmers will be glad to teach you. If you already know how to milk, teach someone else how to do it.
- Learn to make your own butter.

February, 2016 Edition

Garden Gate

7. Grow Forth

Beginner Level

- Write down five local food businesses that make your life easier or more fun.
- Think about a food business you'd like to start with the help of your mentor. Will you sell something you baked, grew, or made?

Intermediate Level

- With the help of your mentor, tackle everything legal about your business idea. How much will it cost to start your business? Where will you sell your food item(s)? Farmers' markets are a great place to experience your first business and learn about transactions and customer service.
- Get your funding in place. Print up business cards. If you need packaging and labeling, explore your options and then go for it!

Expert Level

- With the help your mentor, pick a date for the grand opening to launch your business. Contact your friends to make sure they show up to support you on your first day in business.
- After your first day in business, discuss with your mentor what you did right and what needs to be improved upon. Figure out if you made any money, or if not, how long it will before you show a profit.
- Write down what you'd like to do with the money you earn.

Garden Gate

8. Bees R Us

Beginner Level

- Read about different kinds of bees—honeybees, bumblebees, carpenter bees—and their cousins—wasps and hornets—and learn to identify each kind.
- Once you're armed with your new knowledge about bees, try to get over any anxiety or fear you have about them. (Now you'll know which ones to watch out for.)

Intermediate Level

- Visit a local flower farm and see if you can identify the different pollinators that are buzzing around the flowers.
- Learn about the different kinds of honeybees in a hive and how each kind has a different job.
- Learn about honey and find out why local honey is best.

Expert Level

- Read our article about beekeeping in the Aug/Sept 2016 “Lollygagging” issue of *MaryJanesFarm*. (The magazine required for this badge is available on loan from MaryJanesFarm; contact library@maryjanesfarm.org.)
- Plan a visit to a local beekeeper with your mentoring Sister, suit up in a beekeeping outfit, and get an up-close view of the hive. Have the beekeeper show you the honey supers and ask if you can help harvest it.

Make It Easy

1. Do Your Eyes Light Up?

Beginner Level

- Working with your mentoring Sister or an adult, identify tools commonly used around the house and the yard.
- Learn what they're used for.
- Choose a tool and, with adult guidance, put it work! Make sure to use it safely and properly.

Intermediate Level

- Help your mentoring Sister or an adult organize their tools in such a way that they will always know where they are. This will help you memorize their newly learned names. Plus, you'll know where to find them when helping on a project.

Expert Level

- Using a nail and a hammer, pliers, and whatever other tools you need for the job, put your new-found knowledge to use. Create a luminary out of recycled materials such as tin cans, pop cans, or plastic bottles. You might create your unique luminary by pounding holes into the sides of a can, and then putting a candle inside. You could make the project more fun by making extras to give as gifts, and by thinking about creative designs for your luminary (like the person's name or initials) that would make use of the tools you learned about.

Make It Easy

2. I Did It My Way

Beginner Level

- Save tin cans to create an old-fashioned string telephone.
- When your phone is completed, find someone to have a phone conversation with you.

Intermediate Level

- Follow the instructions in “**MaryJane’s Outpost**” book to create a wooden seat swing for your yard. Every yard needs a swing!

Expert Level

- Working with your mentoring Sister or an adult, build a birdhouse to put up in your backyard. Younger Cultivators may need to have their wood pre-cut.
- Then, see if any of your neighborhood birds move in.

Make It Easy

3. Rethink Your Space

Beginner Level

- With your parents' permission, clean your room using the three-box system. The three boxes are:
 - 1) things to keep
 - 2) things to recycle
 - 3) things that need to be thrown out.

Intermediate Level

- Keep your room cleaned and organized for 2 weeks, marking off on a calendar each day that you keep your room nice and neat.

Expert Level

- Share your experience with your mentoring Sister, family, school or home-school club, local Farmgirl Chapter, or Young Cultivators group. How did it make you feel to walk into your space while it was clean and organized? Share what you did with the box you labeled "recycle."

Make It Easy

4. Put Me In, Coach!

Beginner Level

- Cut out TV time by joining a sports team for a season or taking lessons in baseball, soccer, horseback riding, karate, bowling, or tennis.

Intermediate Level

- Go to a game of your favorite sport (high school, college, or professional) with a parent. Discuss the discipline and practice that it takes to get to that level in your sport.

Expert Level

- Continue with your sports team or lessons for a second season and get a friend to join or participate with you.

Make It Easy

5. Music

Beginner Level

- Listen to three different songs. Try to identify the different instruments that you hear in each.
- If you are older, learn about three of the basic elements of music: rhythm, melody, and harmony. Try to identify each element in the songs you listen to.

Intermediate Level

- Hand-make an instrument, like a guitar or tambourine, and learn to play it.
- Hold a concert for your family with your new instrument.

Expert Level

- Go to a concert or recital with your Sisterhood mentor, parent, or other family member.
- Afterward, discuss the types of music you heard. What was your favorite song? Why?

Make It Easy

6. Bejeweled

Beginner Level

- Begin a small collection of beads, string, and other jewelry-making tools. Necklaces might be the easiest, but don't forget about earrings, anklets, bracelets, even belts.

Intermediate Level

- Make sure your supplies are well-organized. You can separate your things in small, clean baby-food jars, or in plastic bins, or even in a makeup tray or fishing-tackle box.
- Make one necklace, one bracelet, and one pair of earrings.

Expert Level

- Experiment with different types of clasps and string/wire. What is your favorite to work with?
- Make three different types of jewelry projects and give them as gifts.
- Offer your jewelry-making services for a small fee (friends, family, farmers' markets). Use your profits to replenish your bead supply.

Make It Easy

7. Through the Looking Glass

Beginner Level

- Learn about the art of stained glass.
- Take a walk around your town. How many stained glass windows did you see?

Intermediate Level

- Make faux stained glass out of wax paper and crayons. Have your farmgirl mentor teach you how, or use a tutorial from Pinterest or YouTube.
- Make another version of faux stained glass out of melted beads or semi-clear rocks glued together. Hang with ribbon.
- Display your art near the sunniest window in your house.

Expert Level

- With your farmgirl mentor or parent supervising, make your own real stained glass. It doesn't have to be large, it can be as small as a Christmas ornament or a sun catcher.
- Make sure to document your progress from beginning to end.

Out There Kids

1. I Am a Survivor

Beginner Level

- Make your own survival pack to have ready when you and your friends want to take a hike.
Your pack should consist of:
 - 1) matches in waterproof containers
 - 2) a pocketknife
 - 3) unbreakable mirror for signaling rescuers
 - 4) whistle
 - 5) high-energy bar or a few pieces of hard candy
 - 6) rainproof poncho
 - 7) space blanket
 - 8) reflective nylon cord
 - 9) first-aid supplies
- (Packs may need to be split up into two separate baggies to insure safety for younger Cultivators.)

Intermediate Level

- With the help of your mentoring Sister, a school or home-school club, or local nature/outdoors group, take a hike.
- Make sure everyone in the group is clear on what to do and where to go if you are accidentally separated. Preparation is the key.
- To earn this badge, you must work as a student leader, working closely with the adult.

Expert Level

- While on your hike, identify five native plants and their properties as food, medicine, or poison.
- Also, go over how to use each item in your pack in case of an emergency.

Out There Kids

2. Whistle While You Work

Beginner Level

- Follow the instructions for learning the “art of grass whistling” on page 70 of “**MaryJane’s Outpost.**”

Intermediate Level

- Practice makes perfect – learn your favorite tune using your grass whistling skills.

Expert Level

- Give a concert to your mentoring Sister, family, school or home-school club, local Farmgirl Chapter, or Young Cultivators group, whistling the tune you learned.

Out There Kids

3. Lean On Me

Beginner Level

- Using the examples on page 74 of “**MaryJane’s Outpost**,” design your own lean-to.

Intermediate Level

- Build your lean-to. It can be created using any material that you like. Old blankets or bed sheets work well.

Expert Level

- Invite your family, or Young Cultivators group to see your creation. Make it a party or even a sleepover.

Out There Kids

4. Park Place

Beginner Level

- Go to a local park and pick up a bag full of trash or weed any areas that need maintenance.

Intermediate Level

- Identify 3–5 indigenous trees or plants in your park by both their common and Latin names.

Expert Level

- Contact your local park service and ask where you could plant a tree in your area. (This would be great activity for Arbor Day or Earth Day.)

Out There Kids

5. Rock Out

Beginner Level

- Throughout your day, keep an eye out for the different ways that rocks and minerals are used in everyday life.
- Make a list of how they are used in your home.

Intermediate Level

- Go on a rock hunt! Collect at least 5 different rocks.
- What makes each rock different?

Expert Level

- Create a display for your new collection and invite family members or friends to view it.

Out There Kids

6. How Much Is That Doggy in the Window?

Beginner Level

- Learn about what makes a good pet for you and your family. Ask around, read books, study. Remember, take allergies into consideration, as well as your space, environment, and time commitment.

Intermediate Level

- Offer pet-sitting, dog-walking, animal-grooming, or pooper-scooper services.
- Make fliers or posters to advertise your services.

Expert Level

- Once you've had a minimum of five jobs with animals under your belt, journal (or talk) about what you've learned.
- Has the pet you've always dreamed of been overshadowed by one you'd never thought of before? Learn everything you can about your new favorite four-legged friend.
- Now's the time to talk to Mom and Dad. Present a case for why you would like a pet. Remember, if they are not agreeable to your suggestions, you have newfound skills to be around pets whenever you can, with your pet sitting skills and abilities.

Out There Kids

7. Where in the World?

Beginner Level

- What is geography? (Don't get it confused with geometry.)
- Ask your parents to purchase you a map of the world or a globe, if you don't have one in your house already. Make a point to look at it every day.

Intermediate Level

- Learn about what cartography is.
- Learn how to use a scale and a key on a map.

Expert Level

- There are lots of online geography games and board games, too. See what you can find and challenge your family to a geographical dual.
- Acquire a penpal in another country (be sure to have your parents supervise). Exchange letters and get to know one another. Make plans to visit each other, even if it's only pretend for now.
- Learn how to geocache. Once you've learned, teach someone else.

Stitching & Crafting

1. All Buttoned Up

Beginner Level

- Start your own button collection (25 different buttons minimum).

Intermediate Level

- Learn to sew a button onto your shirt or a scrap of material. This skill will carry you through life.

Expert Level

- Make a button bracelet for yourself, your mom, a sister, or your mentoring Sister.

Stitching & Crafting

2. Weaving In And Out

Beginner Level

- Get three strands of yarn a bit longer than what you need to wrap around your wrist.
- Tape the three strands together on one end.
- Tape the taped end to a table.
- Braid the three strands together.
- Tie off the ends.
- You now have a friendship band.

Intermediate Level

- Now, repeat the beginner's process creating a second friendship band. This time you are making it for someone that is special to you. Feel free to use different fibers as an experiment.

Expert Level

- Wear the band for a week, sharing what it symbolizes with anyone who asks. Show off your creations to your family, a school or home-school club, a local Farmgirl Chapter, or a Young Cultivators group by sharing with them to whom you gave your friendship band and why.

Stitching & Crafting

3. All Tied Up

Beginner Level

- Ask your mentoring Sister or an adult to purchase, or to help you sew, a plainly colored artist smock.
- Decorate it using any medium you like — paint, buttons, or permanent markers — you decide.

Intermediate Level

- Organize or participate in a style show to display your decorated smock, describing to the MC (Master of Ceremonies) what you did to create your look.

Expert Level

- With the help of your mentoring Sister or an adult (if needed) sew a half apron or a tool belt-style apron.

Stitching & Crafting

4. Little Scrappers

Beginner Level

- Take pictures on a family vacation or a day trip with parents or grandparents and print them out to scrapbook later.

Intermediate Level

- Gather the materials for putting together a scrapbook (minimum of three pages), including your photos, markers, and paper. Include the favorite things you did on your family vacation or day trip.

Expert Level

- Share your scrapbook with the people you went on your trip with.
- Teach a friend how to scrapbook.

Stitching & Crafting

5. Toys

Beginner Level

- Talk to your parents or grandparents about what kinds of toys they played with when they were little. How were toys different then from toys now?

Intermediate Level

- Make your own paper dolls or finger puppets.

Expert Level

- Put on a show with your new toys for your family.