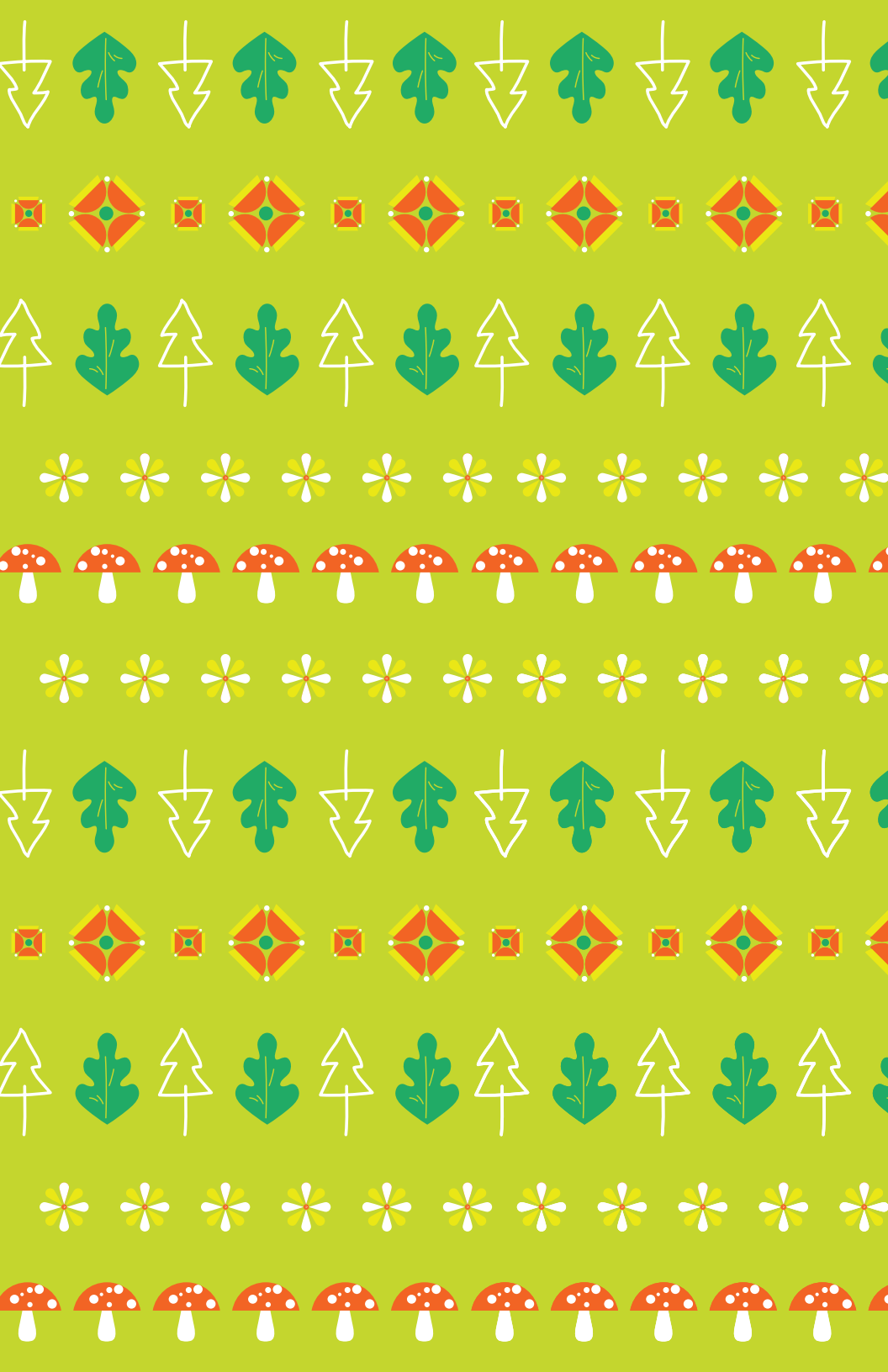




how to build a fairy house

TIPS, TRICKS *and* FUN CRAFT IDEAS

From the Creators of Traverse City's Fairy Trails



created by

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The Creators of the Traverse City Fairy Trails
and Lifestyle Blog LifeandWhim.com

the perfect Family Activity

In today's digital age, it can be tough for parents to get their kids away from the screen and playing actively outside. Here's a surefire way to plan an activity that is fun and rewarding for the whole family: *Build a fairy house!*

Fairy house building engages a child's imagination and immerses him or her in nature. And there's nothing more magical than stimulating a child's sense of wonder about the possibilities of creating a mystical place that is inhabited by fairies and sprites.

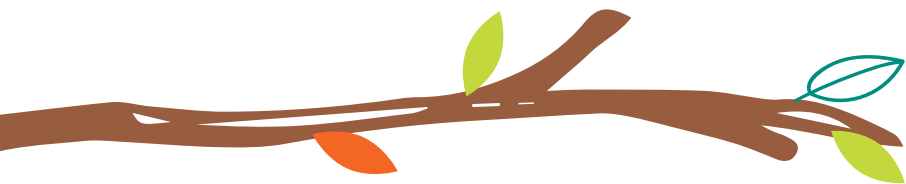
In this guide we provide you with all you need to know about building a fairy house with your children. Give it a try — you may find that you enjoy the process just as much as they do!

The magical fairy fun does not stop once your fairy house is built! We share two more crafts, at the end of this guide, that will continue to inspire your child's imagination and encourage outdoor play.



Fairy House Materials

In our experience, fairies like to make themselves comfortable in homes built using all natural materials such as pine cones, shells, branches, and flowers. Much of the fun involved in building a fairy house is scavenging for the materials, so try to steer clear of man-made materials such as toys and other plastic items (especially if you plan to place your fairy house in a public space, such as a forest, as opposed to your own backyard).



Here is a list of materials that may be helpful as you set up your fairy house workspace:

- Leaves, grass, moss and branches
- Flowers, acorns, rocks and pine cones
- Seashells and feathers
- Large pieces of wood to use as a foundation
- Twine
- Glue gun and wood glue (Be careful — glue guns get very hot)
- Other tools such as screwdriver, saw and hammer (Optional)
- And a lively imagination!



how to Begin

Plan a hunt for your all natural materials. Head to the forest, beach or other natural area where you and your kids can scavenge for supplies needed to build your fairy house.

It's a good idea to find a sturdy base for your fairy house. A flat piece of wood can serve as a good foundation. A large piece of driftwood also works well.

Gathering materials can be a completely spontaneous activity or, if you're more of a planner, check out different Pinterest boards and our www.fairytrailstc.com page for some inspiration. It can be helpful to have a house design in mind before heading out so that you know what materials to look for. Our DIY Fairy House Scavenger Book (craft instructions located on the last page of this guide) can assist with gathering materials and planning your fairy house design.





Start Building

Make sure the foundation is well-supported. Use materials that can be adorned to the framework of the fairy house.

Once you've got the base set, create the enhancements. Moss works great as a roof or for a front yard. Rocks can form pathways. Small sticks can be used to create windows and doors. Fairies love to lounge after a busy day of spreading pixie dust, so get creative building furniture such as benches, swings and tables. Use glue and twine to keep everything in place.

Let your imagination loose!



find a home For Your Fairy House

Once your fairy house is built, seek out the perfect spot for it, such as in your backyard, or in a nearby forest. Fairies are partial to houses built at the base of a tree.

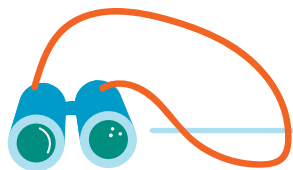
Since the fairy house will be exposed to the elements, visit it from time to time to spruce it up a bit for its mystical inhabitants. For those of you that live near or visit Traverse City, explore the Traverse City Fairy Trails for inspiration. You're encouraged to add your fairy house to the enchanted forest!



just have Fun

Of course, the most important thing to keep in mind when building a fairy house is to have fun! Some fairy houses are very intricate, others very simple, but we've never seen one that kids don't find amazing.

For kids, building a fairy house is just the beginning of the fun. The real magic comes from the possibility of catching a glimpse of a fairy.



And don't forget to pack the binoculars when out looking for fairies on the trails! You just never know when they will drop by! See our fun craft on making fairy finding binoculars on the next page.

In his story, Sylvie and Bruno, Lewis Carroll, author of *Alice in Wonderland*, explained how to best go about seeing a fairy:



The first rule is, that it must be a very hot day – that we may consider as settled: and you must be just a little sleepy – but not too sleepy to keep your eyes open, mind. Well, and you ought to feel a little – what one may call “fairyish” – the Scotch call it “eerie,” and perhaps that’s a prettier word; if you don’t know what it means, I’m afraid I can hardly explain it; you must wait till you meet a Fairy, and then you’ll know.

And the last rule is, that the crickets should not be chirping...

So, if all these things happen together, you have a good chance of seeing a Fairy...

We hope you have as much fun building fairy houses with your family as we do with ours.

happy fairy hunting!

Jay and Heather Harrington
Founders of lifeandwhim.com





get crafty ::

Fairy Finding Binoculars

While using these fairy finding binoculars, don't be surprised if you are sprinkled with some pixie dust. The more creative your binoculars are, the more likely you are to catch a glimpse of a fairy!



Materials needed

- Toilet paper rolls
- Paint & brushes
- Items to decorate the binoculars (such as buttons, stickers and washi tape)
- Glue
- Scissors
- Ribbon or twine
- Hole punch



Let's Get Started!

Using a paint brush, begin by painting the toilet paper rolls. Try using contrasting colors.

Once the paint has dried, place glue on both sides of the toilet paper rolls and press them together firmly so they adhere well.

Now comes the fun part! After the glue has dried and your binoculars are taking shape, get creative and decorate. Use washi tape and stickers, or glue on buttons and ribbon. If your binoculars have a whimsical design, you are more likely to see a fairy!

Using the hole punch, punch two holes on either side of the toilet paper rolls. Be sure to punch the holes on the end that you'll be looking through.

Lastly, thread twine or ribbon through the punched holes and knot the ends so your binoculars can rest around your neck.

Begin your fairy search and have fun!



get crafty



Fairy House Scavenger Book

This fairy house scavenger book contains pockets for storing items collected in nature that can be used in the construction of your fairy house. It also doubles as a journal for planning the design of your new fairy home.



Let's Get Started!

Begin by stacking 4-6 kraft paper bags on top of each other. Fold the small stack of kraft paper bags in half. Run your finger over the outside crease to flatten the stack.

Using the hole punch, punch two holes on the left side of the scavenger book. Thread ribbon or twine through the holes and tie it into a bow in order to create the binding of the book.

Once the book is formed, use art supplies such as construction paper, glue, and markers in order to create a unique cover.

Take your fairy house scavenger book outside and begin collecting items that you can use in the construction and design of your fairy house. You can store these items in the openings (pockets) of the kraft paper pages.

After you've collected items for building your fairy house, you can remove them from the pockets and use the inside pages of the book to begin journaling a plan for building your fairy house. Look through your scavenger book and begin designing your fairy house with your construction materials!



Materials needed

- Kraft paper bags
- Hole punch
- Ribbon
- Glue
- Construction paper
- Crayons or markers



Dream. Explore. Build.

The Fairy Trails is a magical place for kids of all ages to explore and discover fairy houses built along the Cedar Cathedral Trail at The Village at Grand Traverse Commons in Traverse City. The trailhead is located near the water tower right within The Commons.

While mystical creatures have inhabited the minds and imaginations of Traverse City's youth for years, Traverse City's fairies and sprites now have dwellings of their own in a magical woodland setting.

We invite you to come explore and discover the fairy houses and build one of your own using all natural materials! Searching for fairy houses on the Fairy Trails is a fun family adventure. Best of all the Fairy Trails are free to explore - we can't wait to see you out there!



Live Bold. Live North.™

Life and Whim is a lifestyle blog and brand that is based in Traverse City, Michigan. Traverse City residents Jay and Heather Harrington, the creators of this ebook, started Life and Whim after being inspired by their new hometown.

Jay and Heather feel fortunate to live "Up North" so they can experience - from the outdoors, to the food, to the people - the magic this region offers. It's a place that empowers people to live purposeful, meaningful and active lives. But the message they are trying to spread through Life and Whim is that you don't need to live here to live this way.

Anyone, no matter where they call home, can live north.

That's because Living North isn't just about living in Traverse City. It's about a state of mind that values experiences over things, revels in the majesty of nature, and passionately chases big dreams.

Life and Whim was founded with an adventurous spirit and a bold objective: To capture the beauty and unlock the essence of what it means to Live North. It is through activities and initiatives like the establishment of Traverse City's Fairy Trails that Jay and Heather hope to inspire others to take action that not only improves their respective communities, but brings them personal joy and satisfaction as well.

To learn more visit:

Life *and* whim.™.com