



## The Girl's Guide to Building a Fort: Outdoor + Indoor Adventures for Hands-On Girls

**Jenny Fieri**

**Alexis Seabrook, Illustrator**

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Jenny Fieri's *The Girl's Guide to Building a Fort* is part field guide, part activity guide for the girl who wants to try everything.

The guide covers science, the outdoors, athletics and games, building projects, art, and cooking. Each chapter provides supply lists, interesting facts, detailed how-tos, and plenty of activities to combat childhood boredom.

In this girl-positive book, kids are depicted as curious, resourceful, strong, and unafraid to tackle anything, from baiting a hook to handling a hammer. Instructions include practical lessons like tying a bowline knot for your hammock, changing a bike tire, and self-defense moves. They explain how to safely handle a knife, as well as the differences between dicing and julienning. But while the book puts a wide array of skills into girls' toolboxes, many of its step-by-step instructions are challenging to follow without illustrations. Parents also should be aware that some of the activities, like building fires, require adult supervision for safety reasons.

The book sparks interest by diving below the surface into more uncommon facts (Did you know the Big Dipper rotates around the North Star like a clock? Or who the artist Joan Mitchell is?) Projects cover everything from how to play Crazy 8s to how to make a rain cloud out of shaving cream, so that the guide can be approached based on the whims of a given day. Girls are cheerfully encouraged to investigate it all and find their passions, with expansive opportunities for them to do so.

*The Girl's Guide to Building a Fort* is a passionate and encouraging text that celebrates the fact that girls are smart, inspired, and capable of learning and doing anything.

BRANDEE GRUENER (May / June 2021)

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