

The Legend of *The Crane*

Take Flight and Dare to Dream



I will write peace
on your wings
and you will fly
all over the world.

Sadako Sasaki

All About Cranes:

- ❖ Cranes are tall birds with long necks and long bills. They are usually brown, gray or white, and some have red or golden crowns (feathers) on their head.
- ❖ It is one of the longest living birds, with some living up to **75 years**.
- ❖ There are 15 species of cranes, **9 of which are endangered**.
- ❖ There are only two species of cranes found in Michigan. **Sandhill Cranes** are the cranes typically found around Michigan. They can measure up to 5' tall. On rare occasions, you can find a **whooping crane**.



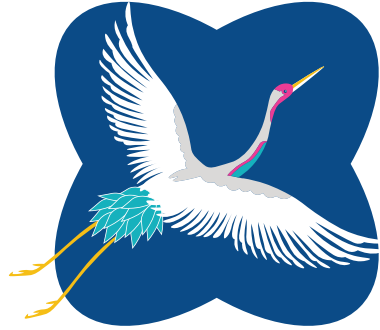
Sandhill Crane



*Golden Crowned
Crane*

Crane Symbolism

- ❖ Cranes are a symbol of *youth, happiness, longevity, peace, good fortune, and creativity.*



- ❖ The crane is a popular subject for poetry and Origami.
- ❖ Many cultures believe in the symbolism of cranes, including the Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Indian, Celtic, Native American, even ancient Greek and Romans.
- ❖ In Japanese folklore, cranes are a symbol of long life because some people believe they can live for 1,000 years.



*Sandhill crane with her baby.
The babies are called colts.*

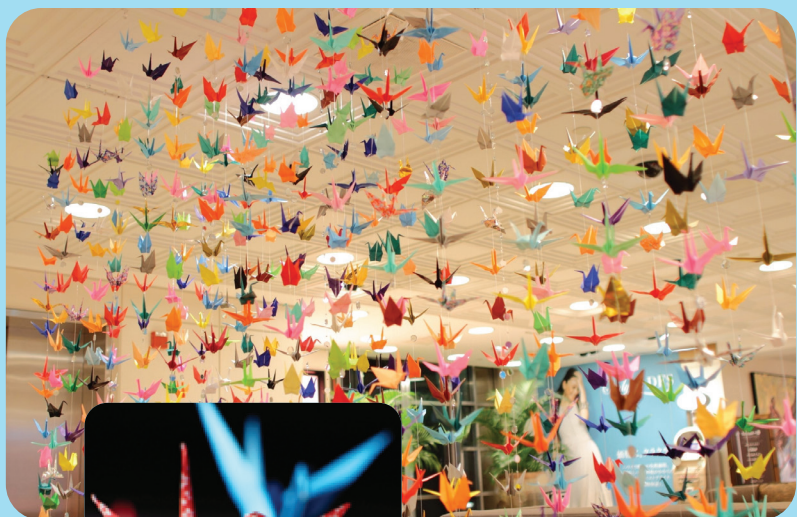
Senbazuru

Folding 1,000
Origami Cranes



The Japanese legend says that cranes live for 1,000 years. When folding paper cranes for Senbazuru, one crane folded symbolizes one year of the crane's life. When you have folded all 1,000, it is believed that the Sacred Crane will grant your one wish.

Nowadays, 1,000 cranes are usually given to people who are sick, or to a couple getting married to wish them a long happy marriage.





Who was Sadako Sasaki

Sadako was a girl who lived in Hiroshima, Japan.

In 1945, when Sadako was 2 years old, the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

In 1955, at 12 years old, Sadako found out she was sick from the radiation that had been left by the atomic bomb. Throughout her hospital stay, she stayed optimistic and cheerful. Some of Sadako's classmates delivered 1000 cranes to Sadako in the hospital in hopes to make her feel better.

Sadako and a friend she made in the hospital started folding cranes together to pass time. They talked about the 1,000 crane legend, and Sadako decided to fold 1,000 cranes to make a wish to get better. She ended up folding around 1,300 cranes. She also changed her wish to world peace. Sadako popularized the act of folding cranes and giving them to people who are sick or hurt to cheer them up.





Children's Peace Monument

Because of Sadako's impact, many of her school friends started a Unity Club to do something to honor her and other children who had become sick from radiation. Together, they raised money and made the plans to have a statue built. Sadako is the girl standing on top, holding a paper crane. The engraving on the back reads *"This is our cry, this is our prayer, to build a world of peace."* On the ground around the statue are cards, cranes, and flowers visitors have left.

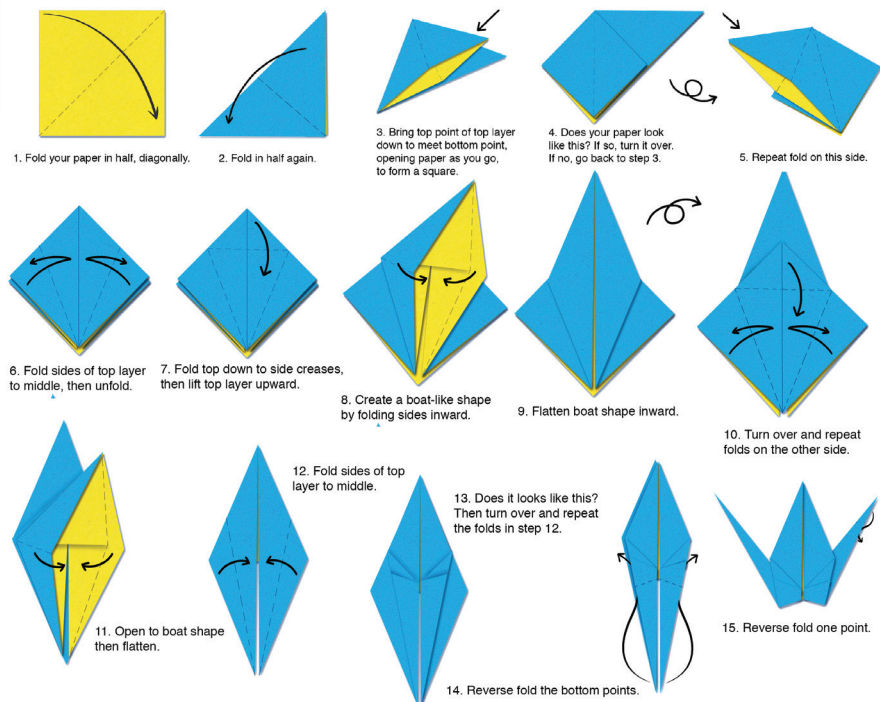
Sadako's family donated cranes she folded to places needing peace and healing. There are some in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor, and the 9/11 Memorial.

At Peace Park in Seattle, WA, there is also a life sized statue of Sadako holding a paper crane. People bring paper cranes they have folded to hang on the monument.



How to Fold a Peace Crane

Blue represents the front side of the paper. Yellow represents the back. Your paper may look different.



At GSHOM, we want to fold 1,000 cranes for our wish for all girls to be leaders with courage, confidence, and character. We need your help to reach our goal of folding 1,000 cranes.

girl scouts 
heart of michigan

800-497-2688 • helpdesk@gshom.org