



Today's Featured Activity: Pressed Plant Art

If you enjoyed the scavenger hunt from Tuesday, here's another opportunity to take a closer look around! This time, you'll collect leaves and flowers to be dried and used in your nature journal or for art projects.

You'll want to collect flowers on a sunny day or at least later in the day, so they're not still wet from the morning dew. Experiment with different sizes and shapes of flowers and leaves: some press better than others. If a flower is very bulky maybe just collect some petals from it instead of the whole flower. A few tips for flower collecting: make sure that you're collecting from a site that allows it, only collect flowers or plants that are abundant, and be aware of poison ivy, you don't want to collect that!

- If you don't already have a plant press here's an easy [small plant press](#) you can make with items you likely already have at home. The basic idea is that you want to have paper that will absorb the moisture from the plant (printer paper will work fine), space between to let air flow (pieces of cardboard), and something heavy to weigh it all down (a stack of books). If you make your press small enough to fit in a backpack you can take it with you on

your hikes!

- Once you have all your layers of plants in your press you will want to find a place for them to dry, using the plant press method typically takes at least a week depending on the plant. Check them after that to see if they are dry and flat.
- You can also do a quicker version of drying flowers and leaves using your microwave, paper towels, regular printer paper, and a heavy plate.

Once dry you can use your flowers and plant material in a number of fun art projects:

- Create handmade cards to send to your friends and family using the pressed flowers on the outside.
- Add these pressed plants to your nature journal by gluing them or taping them to the page. Make sure to write a description of where you found them and what attracted you to choose those plants. That way you can revisit that area again next time they are in bloom.
- Make a suncatcher using the pressed flowers and crayon shavings - this activity involves an iron, so adult supervision is recommended.
- Create fashion for fairies or other creatures.

Did you do this activity? Post a photo on Instagram and tag @clctrust or use #clctrust.

Have suggestions for activities you'd like to see? [Send us an email!](#)

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