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**Mission:** Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

## Flower crowns

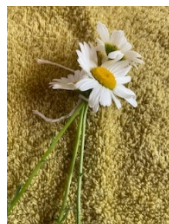
A flower crown, laurel or garland is easy to make. You can wear it in your hair or hang it on the wall, whether you make a full wreath or just a partial one, called a swatch or swag (meaning a decorative chain of flowers, foliage or fruit fastened to hang in a dropping curve—as in Christmas swags of evergreens). The materials you'll need are simple: flowers, scissors and a piece of string, tape or a twist tie for the beginning and the end. Most any flowers and greenery will work. Caution: don't use protected wildflowers; don't cut your mom's or neighbor's flowers without permission; and know your plants—don't use plants with milky liquid in the stems, like milkweed and watch for poison ivy, etc. Cut stems to about 7 or 8 inches long and strip off most of the leaves, especially near the bottom of the stem. Gather a mixture of flowers, grasses & leaves for texture, color and design. Different flowers create a different feel and look for your crown! Once you have your favorite flowers, leaves & grasses picked out, you can get started with making your very own flower crown. Fasten three flowers or whatever together with string, tape or a twist ties and start braiding the stems. Lay in a new flower at each step of the braid. Adding new flowers will give you flowers all the way along and stems with which to continue the weaving. Attach the flowers in one direction facing outwards for the blooms to stand out. Continue to braid in your flowers until you're satisfied with the length of your crown or swag! If you are making a crown, fasten the end to the beginning of the flower wreath. If you are creating a partial braid or swag, bring all the ends together and tape or tie, when you finish braiding. Make a loop, if you are planning to hang your braid. You can create a focal point by attaching a few larger flowers towards the front or side of your crown. Place your crown in a safe spot in your refrigerator, if you want it to last until later or the next day. Spray it with water, when you're ready to wear it. The water will refresh the blooms.



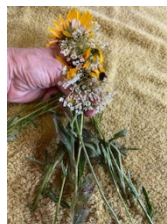
1 Pick flowers



2 Start with 3



3 Tie 3 together



4 Braid & add flowers each time



5 tie at end



6 Hang or wear