



# Operation Purple<sup>®</sup> AT HOME

## ... Activity Two ...

### AMERICAN FLAG ECO-ART

**Time: +30 minutes | Participants: All ages, minimum of 2 people**

Explore the outdoors and make collaborative decisions together to create American flag eco-art using items found in nature.

#### FAMILY MISSION VALUES

Connection and Empowerment

#### WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Your imagination
- An outdoor setting (try visiting a park you've never been to before!)
- Leaves, sticks, stones, pinecones, flowers/flower petals from the ground around you

**Remember:** *There is no right or wrong way to create art, and there's no need to go too far to find nature around you. You can go to the local park in your neighborhood, your backyard, or even your front yard to find materials to use. Just remember to respect nature and only pick items that are no longer living.*

#### BEFORE YOU START

Ecological Art, also known as eco-art or sustainable art, uses things found in nature to create beautiful works of art that do not harm the Earth. Started as a way to motivate people to go out in natural environments around them, eco-art gives us the opportunity to discuss how awesome our Earth is, and inspires us to find innovative ways to conserve it for generations to come.

As a family, Google the works of Andy Goldsworthy to see how he uses natural materials to create free-standing, nature inspired works of art.

#### INSTRUCTIONS

##### 1. Gather (10-15 mins)

Assign each person in the family a certain type of item to collect. Person 1 can grab sticks, Person 2 can collect rocks, Person 3 will find cool leaves, and so on. Pick a designated location where items are gathered or stored throughout the picking process.

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## 2. Strategize (5 mins)

Now that you have all your materials, what will you do with them? How will you create the stars and the stripes? It's okay if you don't have 50 stars on the flag—this is a creative interpretation of the American flag!

## 3. Create and Discuss (15+ mins)

Work together to create your American flag. Remember that sometimes the creative process changes, so don't hesitate to gather more items if you need it! Communicate with each other when something changes or someone has a new idea.

While you're working together, talk about what the American flag stands for and how your service member loved one helps fight for freedom. Each person can share one thing they love about being a military family.

Once your flag is completed, collect more items around you and create more eco-art! Try making a sun, or spell out your branch of service, or make a self-portrait!

## 4. Share and Inspire

Join our Facebook group, and post a photo of your flag. Tell us what materials you used and leave recommendations for others! Remember, the mission of eco-art is to inspire others to see the beauty of nature around us. Your family's art will do just that!

## WRAP UP

*Sit down with your family in a circle or at a table and chat about the activity experience using these questions! Take turns reading a question and listen to each person's response.*

- What was the hardest part of the American flag project?
- What would you do differently next time?
- What did you learn as you completed your American flag together?
- Did you find anything in nature that surprised you?