

This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. Thanksgiving has passed and we are looking forward to winter skies and another festive time of year. We are going to celebrate this special time with a warm wreath made with recycled paper and adding decorations from nature. Wreaths made from evergreens and holly berries were symbols of joy in classical times. The honored art of wreath-making symbolized the strength of life during the harsh days of winter. Hung on the door or window, some believe it symbolizes growth and good life. You can make one for your home or give it to a friend or neighbor to invite good cheer and joy! Sharing and recycling together are wonderful!



1-Draw a circle on a piece of paper or cardboard. You can trace around a bowl you may have at home. Make a smaller circle in the center. Cut out this small circle to make a ring. Or cut out a circle from the middle of a paper plate. Grab a leaf from outside before the snow comes and dry it inside overnight. Put something heavy on top to keep it flat. Trace the leaf pattern on old pages of newspaper, magazines, or a grocery bag. We will use old books that are no longer read or the cover is too damaged to circulate. Flip the paper plate over, so it is a bit rounded. Begin layering the leaves around the edge of the circle. For younger artists, you can use the shape of their handprint to make the wreath. Tape, staple, or glue all the leaves around the circle until it is covered and full. You can add color by rolling green or any color over the edges of the leaves.

2-Make a hole at the top of the plate and tie on a string or loop of yarn to hang up the wreath. Add two more holes close together to tie on a decoration. When you are out collecting the leaf, look around for other natural things that you can add to the wreath. Sticks, evergreens, and plant stems, are all good. Put a few together and tie with a colorful ribbon or string. Tie on to the wreath, and add a heartfelt message for good winter wishes.

*Try your hand at this warm wreath!*

