



# FINGER-EMBOSSED MEDALLIONS

**Overview/Description:** Students will create a medallion/ornament, using their fingertips to emboss it. A leaf is tucked under the foil; the image appears as it is burnished with a fingertip.

**Grade Level:** Any

**Lesson Time:** 20 - 40 minutes

**Season:** Any

**Type of Activity:** Art/Craft

## Materials Needed:

Empty cereal box or cardboard of same weight

Canning jar ring

Thick fresh leaves, a little smaller than canning jar ring

Black paint

Paper towels

Cord to hang medallion on

Aluminum foil – (heavy duty foil is preferred)

Scissors

Glue stick

Paintbrush

Hole punch

**Preparation:** Depending on age of children or amount of time available, you may want to pre-cut the cardboard and foil circles and/or gather thick leaves ahead of time.

## What to do:

- **Trace** inner circle of canning jar ring on a piece of cereal box or cardboard. **Cut out the circle.**
- **Cut 2 pieces of aluminum foil** about a ½ inch larger than the cardboard circle.
- **Glue a foil circle** to one side of cardboard circle - this will be the back of the medallion.
- **Cut off the excess foil** around the edge of the circle.
- **Cover the other side** of the cardboard circle **with glue.**
- Remove leaf stem. **Press the top of the leaf into the glue.** (The underside of the leaf should face up.)
- Gently **apply more glue to the top of the leaf.**
- Lay the **second piece of foil over the leaf. Fold edges over** and around.
- Use your finger to **gently press down** on the side of the circle where the leaf is to reveal the leaf veins. Make sure you press hard enough to see the details of the leaf.
- **Paint a layer of black paint** over the top of the circle.
- **Quickly wipe off paint** with a paper towel. For a darker print leave the paint on a little longer before wiping it off.
- **Punch a small hole** at the top of the circle. Decide if you want a medallion or ornament; that will determine how long to make the cord. Then run the cord/string through and cut to preferred length.

**Teaching Points:** When gathering the leaves ask students about the leaf characteristics: textures, colors, etc. Talk about the underside and top side of a leaf; ask if there is a difference. When the medallion is finished ask the students what it might make them think of.

**Notes:** Make sure you use FRESH leaves to get the best impression. Leaves with some thickness are preferred. Be sure to remove any stems that are extra thick or poky as they will poke a hole in your foil. When pressing on the foil be careful not to poke holes or tear it. Sometimes the heavy duty foil works better if you have THICK leaves.