



**Here's a little guide to getting crafty with willow. It's a great one for the holiday season since you can use them as ornaments!**

- 1.** Collect a few straight and thin rods of willow that are approximately the thickness of a pencil at the thickest end (other flexible material like ash or hazel saplings could be used as an alternative if willow is not available).
- 2.** Strip any leaves and trim off side shoots.
- 3.** About 4-5 inches from the larger end of your rod, make a 45 degree bend to form a point
- 4-5.** Make another 45 degree bend about 4-5 inches from the first bend and repeat 4 times until you form the shape of a star.
- 6-7.** Wrap the rest of the length of your willow around the middle of the star in a random manner until you reach the end of your rod.
- 8.** Thread the end underneath one of the woven rods and pull gently to secure it in place. This will ensure your star does not unravel once you let it go.
- 9.** You can add another rod of willow to make your star a bit fuller by placing the larger end of a second rod underneath the weave and repeating steps 6 through 8.
- 10.** If desired, tie a bit of twine to one of the points of your star so you can hang it up!

Optional: you could stick natural materials like leaves or berries into the weave to decorate your star if you wish!