



Smithsonian Associates

Orchids for the Holidays

Instructor: Barb Schmidt

While I am providing a list below to complete the orchid activity at the end of this class, please do not feel constrained by what I have suggested. This is a time to become creative and use whatever you may already have around your home that you would enjoy seeing in a centerpiece. I have included photos of past projects.



To complete this activity, you will need four main items:

1. An epiphytic orchid – Phalaenopsis, Oncidium, Cattleya, Vanda, Neostylis. I have used an Oncidium Twinkle orchid in both photos. This epiphytic orchid remains small, has tiny little blooms, and is very adaptive to being mounted.
2. A container to use in the centerpiece. Tree fern baskets are used in both photos above. You could also use clay pots, cork bark, tree bark, wicker baskets or a decorative ceramic container. If using a ceramic container that does not have drainage holes, you will need to leave your orchid in its pot so it can be removed from the ceramic container to be watered.
3. A plate or saucer for draining water. This will not be needed if you are using a non-draining ceramic container.
4. Decorations for your centerpiece, such as small waterproof lights, ribbons or holiday decorations.

I will be using an Oncidium Twinkle orchid, a decorative plate, fall decorations, small sprigs of decorative balls, and a tiny set of waterproof, battery-operated twinkle lights to show the centerpiece two different ways.

FACEBOOK: SMITHSONIAN STUDIO ARTS INSTAGRAM: @SMITHSONIANASSOCIATES

EMAIL: ASSOCIATES-STUDIOARTS@SI.EDU