



**EAST COBB**  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## America in Bloom

### A Summer Science Collection Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary

In celebration of America's 250th birthday, we will be creating a collaborative scientific and artistic collection showcasing the natural beauty of the United States. Throughout the summer, 6-8<sup>th</sup> students will collect and preserve flowers or leaves from different locations and habitats as part of our "America in Bloom" Botanical Collection.

This project combines botany, ecology, observation skills, geography, scientific documentation, and creativity. Together, our classes will create a visual snapshot of the plants and ecosystems that make up our nation.

#### Your Assignment

Over the summer, collect and press at least 3 flowers. These may come from:

- your neighborhood
- parks
- vacations
- family trips
- relatives in other states
- hiking trails
- gardens
- roadside wildflowers

You are encouraged to collect specimens from as many different locations or states as possible!

#### Our Goal

As a middle school, we hope to create a botanical collection representing the many regions and ecosystems of the United States as America celebrates 250 years of history, beauty, and discovery. Piece by piece, petal by petal, our students will help build a living portrait of America through the flowers and plants collected this summer. These specimens will become part of a collaborative art and science installation displayed outside the middle school science lab, celebrating the landscapes, natural diversity, and shared beauty that connect our nation "from sea to shining sea."





# America in Bloom

## A Summer Science Collection Guidelines

### Collection Guidelines

#### Step 1: Collect Carefully / Choose specimens that are:

- ✓ fairly flat or thin
- ✓ dry (not wet from rain)
- ✓ in good condition
- ✓ interesting or unique

#### **Avoid:**

- ✗ thick flowers like roses
- ✗ cactus/succulent plants
- ✗ poisonous plants
- ✗ flowers from private gardens without permission

*Please collect responsibly and do not remove large amounts from natural areas.*

#### Step 2: Press Your Specimens

##### **Simple Flower Pressing Method:**

1. Place the flower or leaf flat between two paper towels or sheets of paper.
2. Put the specimen inside a heavy book.
3. Stack additional books on top.
4. Leave undisturbed for 1–2 weeks until dry.

##### **Tips:**

- ✓ Spread petals flat before pressing.
- ✓ Flowers dry best when they are not overlapping.
- ✓ Check occasionally for moisture or mold.

#### Step 3: Document Your Collection / For EACH specimen, include:

- Common name (if known)
- Location collected (city/state preferred)
- Date collected
- Habitat (woods, roadside, backyard, beach, mountains, etc.)
- Photo before pressing (with YOU in it)

*If you do not know the flower name, that is okay! We will help identify some of them together in class.*

*Bring your pressed specimens to class during meet and greet or the first week of school.*

