Seaside Crafts at Home!
How to make an octopus garland

To make the garland, you first need to make your octopuses. Depending on what materials you have at home, we have provided two different ways to make your octopuses.

Octopuses made with a cardboard tube:

1. Start with a pair of scissors, a cardboard tube, and paint, markers, or crayons to color your tube.

2. Cut off a 3-inch section of your tube.
3. Color your tube using markers, paint, or crayons, then cut eight, 1-inch slits in your tube to create the octopus’ arms. Wrap each arm around a pen or pencil to curl it upward.

4. Draw suckers on to the bottom of the arms you cut, and draw a face! Ta-da!

This octopus was painted red to look like the Pacific Red Octopus (pictured above), one of the many incredible creatures you can see at the Seymour Center. While they are called the red octopus, they have an incredible ability to change their colors based on their surroundings. They have specialized skin cells called chromatophores that allow them to do this. Each chromatophore cell has a stretchy sack that is filled with pigment (imagine a water balloon filled with ink). When the muscles around the cell tighten,
more pigment is visible on the octopus’ skin; when the muscles contract, less pigment is visible.

**Octopuses made of paper:**

If you do not have a cardboard tube, you can use paper instead.

1. Start with your paper, scissors, a glue stick, and a marker.

2. Cut off a 3-inch section of your paper.

3. Use your glue stick to glue the paper into a tube shape. Decide how wide you want your tube to be by choosing how much paper overlaps where you glue the ends.

4. Cut eight, 1-inch slits in the bottom of your paper tube to create the arms (or tentacles).

5. Curl each arm upwards with a pen or pencil, and draw on suckers and a face!
Make the Octopus Garland

1. Make more octopuses -- as many as you want!

2. Using a thick, blunt needle (or a hole punch) and string, poke a hole on each side of the octopus, and then string them on a long string (no octopuses were harmed in the making of this craft).

3. Your garland is complete. Hang it up somewhere you will enjoy it!

While the octopus garland is a fun craft, an octopus garden is a real thing! An octopus will deposit empty shells outside its den in a pile, this is commonly called an "octopus's garden."

Happy crafting!