

Collections

All Divisions



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The desire to collect things has long been practiced by people worldwide. In Ancient China, Egypt, and Rome, collecting was a common practice. In Ancient Rome, a full quarter of the city was devoted to antiquarians and art dealers. In modern America, people will collect almost anything and many things become valuable for their collection value. If two or more people desire to collect the same thing, this adds to its value.

The 4-H Collection project is designed to help you start or continue your collections and to organize it in a pleasing way.

You may choose to collect almost anything that interests you. Some will cost nothing to collect, others may be very expensive to acquire. The choice is yours. Below is a short list of suggestions, but there are many more.

Suggestions include buttons, matchbooks, arrowheads, glass, cups & saucers, antiques, salt shakers, stamps, dishes, pitchers, pencils, spoons, dolls, bottles, sports cards, coins, bottle caps, cans*, tractors, pressed flowers, bells, comic books, hats, thimbles, figurines, fossil, marbles, postcards, shells, teddy bears, animals of all kinds, etc.

Collection projects will not be accepted for items that have their own 4-H project areas. Leaves, insects, weeds, and rocks may not be entered in the collection project. These should be entered in the proper project area, Forestry, Entomology, Weeds, or Geology.

***Collections should not contain materials deemed inappropriate for youth collections. For example: Alcoholic beverage cans/bottles are not appropriate for the 4-H collection project.**



Collections Project (No State Fair Entry)

1. Choose a suitable collection for your age and division.
2. Select a place to store and/or display your collection in your home.
3. Ask friend and relatives to help you collect.
4. Use the library to learn more about your collection, scientific names, or obscure information.
5. Keep good records of where and when you found objects for your collection.
6. Write a story about your collection explaining why you started the collection, how you have added to your collection, the history of the items in your collection, the value and the age of the collection.
7. Your collection should be explained in a notebook with pictures and/or small items from the collection itself (not to exceed three pieces).
8. Keep your collection in a clean, neat location. This may be difficult if it contains small items that attract dust.
9. Complete your display for the fair and the record sheets
10. Collections may be a continuation of a member's previously entered collection with additions to meet the item number requirements for each grade or a new collection consisting of the appropriate number of items.

Display Tips (for at home display)

Suggestions for display techniques would be including but not limited to the following: Fastened to a board, on a shelf, poster, or bulletin board. They could be kept in an album or a notebook. An egg carton can be used to neatly display small items like shells or marbles. Boxes or small plastic bags can be attractive and good way to display or store items in a collection.

FAIR DISPLAY FOR THE COLLECTIONS PROJECT

Space limitations will not allow the display of the actual collections. Required items should be placed in a THREE RING NOTEBOOK and submitted for judging.

1. Choose a suitable collection for your age and level.
2. Prepare a three ring notebook with following items for entry in the fair:
 - A description of your collection.
 - No more than three items from your collection may be included in your notebook, if they are small enough to be included in a notebook-otherwise, photographs should be included. Each item/photograph should be labeled with a description, cost, date and place that you acquired the item. (If not included as part of log.)
 - Pictures of your entire collection as you display it in your home

- A story about your collection. How long you have had the collection, why you chose to collect this item, how large is your collection, and with whom you share the collection. Be creative!
 - A completed record sheet for your collection project. All record sheets should be included if your collection is a continuation from a previous year.
 - Collection log sheets. These should be included for the required number of items according to your level in the collections project. (see below)
3. Include an 8-inch x 10-inch or an 8.5-inch x 11-inch photo of your collection. This photo will be used for display at the fair. Only the photo will be displayed. Notebooks will be stored and can be picked up during the project release times the Monday after fair. Include your name, address, and club name on the back of the photo. The photo should be in a plastic sleeve.

Level A (Grades 3 & 4)

Complete a notebook with all items and a representative sample or photographs from your collection. Your collection should contain at least 6 log sheets for items in your collection. *Youth in grade 4 who exhibited in grade 3 must add two additional items to their collection or enter a new collection.* End of grade 3 = 6 logs. End of grade 4 = 8 logs.

Level B (Grades 5 & 6)

Complete a notebook with all items and a representative sample or photographs from your collection. Your collection should contain at least 10 log sheets for items in your collection. *Youth in grade 6 who exhibited in grade 5 must add two additional items to their collection or enter a new collection.* End of grade 5 = 10 logs. End of grade 6 = 12 logs.

Level C (Grades 7, 8 & 9)

Complete a notebook with all items and a representative sample or photographs from your collection. Your collection should contain at least 15 log sheets for items in your collection. *Youth in grade 8 or 9 who exhibited in grade 7 must add two additional items to their collection or enter a new collection.* End of grade 7 = 14 logs. End of grade 8 = 16 logs. End of grade 9 = 18 logs.

Level D (Grades 10, 11 & 12)

Complete a notebook with all items and a representative sample or photographs from your collection. Your collection should contain at least 20 log sheets for items in your collection. *Youth in grade 11 or 12 who exhibited in grade 10 or 11 must add two additional items to their collection or enter a new collection.* End of grade 10 = 20 logs. End of grade 11 = 22 logs. End of grade 12 = 24 logs.

JUDGING CRITERIA FOR COLLECTIONS

The following points should be considered when preparing your notebook for exhibit. They are the same ones that the judges will consider.

Meeting basic requirements:

Are all required pieces included in your notebook?

- Description of your collection
- History about your collection
- Correct number of Collector's Log Sheets for the required number of items
- Samples or photos of no more than three items from your collections
- Photographs of your display arrangements for your collection
- One 8-inch X 10-inch or 8.5-inch x 11-inch photo of the collection (will be used for display at the fair)
- A completed/signed record sheet for your collection

Extras:

Did you meet and not exceed the requirements?

Have you been creative in arranging and labeling?

Are items arranged neatly in the notebook?

Elkhart County 4-H Collections Project
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