



# COLLECTIBLES



*Montgomery County 4-H*



*REVISED 2008*

# Collectibles

Congratulations on choosing to complete a 4-H Collectibles project! You will learn many things and have fun adding to your own favorite collection. Let's get started:

## WHY SHOULD I START A COLLECTION?

Collecting is both fun and exciting because:

- It is an adventure looking for specific items and watching your collection grow.
- You may get to meet new people and visit new places.
- It helps you appreciate the history and possible economic value of items.
- It allows you to be creative as you display your collection.
- It doesn't have to cost a lot of money, if any.
- It gives you a hobby and skills you will use for the rest of your life.

Did you know that collecting things really began a long time ago? In Egypt while the pyramids were being built, King Tutankhamen (King Tut) collected walking sticks. In America, the craze for collections began during the 1960's when factories started making products with plastic instead of metal. Many different types of items have been collected over the centuries. With today's modern technology, collecting some items has become even easier...not necessarily less expensive, though.

Collecting is a very popular hobby among folks of all ages. A 4-H'er can choose to collect almost any type of article and can continue collecting different examples of this articles all of his/her life. If you have not already begun your collection, consider storage, use, display area, and above all, what it is that you like and enjoy collecting.

Collections may be large or small, very expensive, valuable, inexpensive, or even free. As you start collecting as a 4-H project, you should have fun and enjoy your hobby. 4-H will give you an incentive for developing a collection and a chance to share your hobby with others.

Because of the value of many collections (either monetary or sentimental), the actual collections will not be displayed at the fair. Your story and inventory of your collection will be put into a notebook and the notebook will be entered for judging.

The objectives of this project are to help the 4-H'er to:

1. Learn to appreciate the fun of collecting items and showing them to family and friends.
2. Learn to keep complete and accurate records.
3. Learn how to care for and store items in their collection.
4. Learn to appreciate the historic, scientific, &/or economic value of the items collected.
5. Develop a live-long interest.

You may gain many skills by participating in this project. Among these are...

- It is fun to look for specific items for your collection; it helps you feel a sense of accomplishment to see your collection grow.
- It is educational because it introduces you to new people, places, and things as you find items for your collections.
- It may add to your appreciation of your heritage.
- It may make you more aware of the world around you.
- It may sharpen your imagination.
- It may help you meet other collectors.
- It may not cost any money.
- If you have fun collecting, then why not share your enjoyment with others?

You may choose any type of article you desire to collect. The list below offers some suggestions, but your choice is not limited to these.

Action Figures	Bears	Bumper Stickers	Fast Food Toys
Arrowheads	Shells	Books	Pitchers
Autographs	Sports Cards	Bottles	Comic Books
Hats	Post Cards	Models	Coins
Knives	Salt Shakers	Stamps	Buttons
Leaves	Rocks	Dolls	Bells
Matchbooks	Thimbles	Dishes	Ornaments
Pictures	Seeds	Pressed Flowers	Photographs
Rocks/Gems	Stickers	Beanie Babies	Pencils/Pens
Rulers	Snow Globes	Snowmen	Trains
Trading Cards	Miniatures	Spoons	Bottle Caps
Key Rings	Baskets	Tins	Marbles
Feathers	Fossils		

As you start your new collection, here are some important points that should be considered.

### 1. START SMALL AND SIMPLE

Start by collecting items that you like and that don't cost a lot of money. Your interests may change as you get older. By keeping it simple you probably won't have lots of money invested and space required for you collection.

### 2. LEARN, LEARN, LEARN!

Learn as much as you can about what you are collecting. Here are some ways:

- talk to others collectors
- read books, magazines, or collectors' guides
- check the public library for books on the items you are collecting
- with parent's permission, check out collecting web sites
- if purchased, talk to the owner of the store where you bought an item
- talk to family members

You may have a collection that has been passed on to you by a family member. The value of this may not be monetary but will certainly have a high level of sentimental value and possible family history.

Try to learn the answers to the following questions:

- What is the background or history of the times you are collecting?
- How should you properly store and clean the items in your collection?
- How should you display the items? In the sun? In special notebooks?
- What things (overall quality and condition, cleanliness, color, scratches, dents, etc.)

### 3. KEEP CAREFUL RECORDS

Be sure to keep good records on your collection. You can use the 4-H Collection Record included in this manual as a guide. The columns listed represent the minimum amount of information a collector should keep. You may want to keep additional information on some or all of your items, depending on the type of collection you have.

Documenting each item of your collection will make it even more special. It is very important to label your collection articles accurately and neatly. Each time you add a piece to your collection you should record everything you know and can find out about it; this is the history of the piece and the more facts you can obtain on each piece, the more valuable and important the collection becomes to you.

### 4. WRITE YOUR REPORT

Each member must write their own report, with assistance in editing or typing only. Reports should be titled and titles should mention the item being collected. Your report should tell when, how, and why your collection was started. Tell where you kept your collection at home. Tell some interesting facts about the items you have collected and why you value them. Share how you store and/or display your collection at home. Share what you've learned by collecting this particular item and through completing this project. Older 4-H'ers may want to tell about the history of the items you collect and how you hope to continue your collection.

The following is an example of a story by a boy named Bueford who is in the Beginning Division. His story is well done for this age. As you get older, you should be able to include more details about your collection. If typed, the reader appreciates no smaller than 12-font type and the story should be double spaced.

### **Collecting Hubcaps—Legally By Beuford Q. Zidfuddle**

My collection began with my first trip to the junk yard with Dad. These shiny chrome objects attracted my attention. Their low price and many styles seemed appealing.

After purchase, I polished each one and hung them in the garage. The nicer ones decorate my bedroom wall. Several hubcaps are antiques with the "Packard" being my favorite. The 1933 Chevrolet hubcap is rare because that was during the Depression when cars and metal were scarce.

Hubcaps are bright, shiny, stylish and teach automotive history. Through collecting hubcaps, I've learned to share an interest in cars with my dad and grandpa. I've also learned how to take care of them and to appreciate their history. Maybe you should consider collecting hubcaps.

Bueford's report avoided obvious statements that hubcaps are neat, fun, or that he enjoys his collection. Few people collect anything that they don't enjoy. Avoid wordiness and try to tell as much as you can about your collection in a short report.

#### **5. CATALOGING YOUR ITEMS: Advanced Division**

After you have several pieces, it will be time to start your catalogue. You can use either a card file or a loose leaf notebook. The catalog should be neatly printed or typed and should use at least one sheet per object. If possible, each object should be photographed and the photo attached to the catalogue page. The object should be well written with history and description of the object. If you need to, you can add pages to complete or add to the history. It is best to write up only one item per page or card; if you sell or swap an object, you will remove the catalogue entry for that object. If you purchased, it is always a good idea to keep the original box your item was packaged in. This adds value to the item as time passes.

Writing up the collection is vital as it provides more interest in the collection and makes recalling details about a piece possible. Each entry should contain the following information: Photo (if possible); Place & date acquired; Price Paid or Swap Made; Value (pencil this in so it can be adjusted); Decoration, if any and its meaning; Distinguishing Marks, include any damage; A history of the object-where it was used, its purpose, its environment, who owned it, how old, date manufactured or produced, and any other information you can find about it; dates exhibited or loaned and where or to whom.



### **Example 1: A Folding Hand Fan**

Acquired May 12, 1986 at auction in Shively, KY

Paid - \$3.75

Valued at \$9-\$12 by Hanks Auction Co.

Decorations –Two red birds on tree branches and small flowers in pink and light blue around edge. No known meaning.

Distinguishing Marks – Water stain at lower edge of fabric.

History – Probably Japanese in origin, prior to 1930's; a war souvenir brought home from South Pacific in 1944

Exhibited at Jefferson Mall show – 1986

Exhibited at Vermillion County Fair – 1993

History Update- Person's name who got fan is Henry Olson, found in abandoned hut on Antiock Atol in the Marianas while stationed there during World War II.

You would keep adding information as long as you have the item and you find new information about it.

### **Example 2: Toy Tractors**

Tractor 101: John Deere Model XXX

Purchased at the Indiana State Fair August 14, 2006

Tractor 102: Ford Model XXX

From Midwest Antique Show

Birthday gift from Mom and Dad, September 21, 2006

### **TIPS FOR STORING AND DISPLAYING YOUR COLLECTION:**

Each kind of collection has its own set of methods for storing and preserving, depending on what it is. Therefore, it is important that you check out the specific methods for your particular collection items so that you know exactly what you should be doing to keep your treasures safe and sound. Here are some general tips that should apply to most collections.

**CLEANING:** Keep the items in your collection clean and dust free. When cleaning your items, find a gentle cleanser that is designed for use on your items. Improper cleaning may cause damage to items in your collection.

**STORAGE:** Find a cool and dry place in your home to store your collection. It is best to store them away from direct sunlight and in a container that keeps out bugs and other critters. Many items fade or turn yellow when exposed to sunlight (consider sunlight coming through a window) over a long period of time. Other items may melt when stored in a hot place like an attic. As you begin your collection you can store stamps, collectible cards, postcards, and other paper items in a simple three-ring binder with special pages (acid-free page protectors or acid-free pages with special pockets for your items) to hold your collection.

**DISPLAYING YOUR COLLECTION AT HOME:** Find a place in your room or house to display your collection or a part of it. Part of the fun of collecting is to enjoy it and share it with friends and family. You may want to rotate items you display and store. This keeps down the direct light exposure, requires less display space, but still allows you to enjoy your collection.

## **PROJECT GUIDELINES**

- Show and explain your collection to at least two (2) friends, your 4-H Club or other group.
- Study the items you are collecting. Prepare a special report each year for your notebook (one page or less) on something that interests you about your collection. This report should focus on a different portion or aspect of your collection each year. (see examples above). You may have someone else type the report if you wish. Include this report in your notebook.
- You **MUST** add at least two items to your collection each year to continue in this project.
- Complete a new 4-H COLLECTION RECORD and SUMMARY OF MY COLLECTION sheet each year, found in your manual, and add them to your notebook. This allows the judge to quickly see what new items you have added to your collection since the last fair. This information should remain in your notebook from year to year so that you will develop a history of your collection.
- Items in your collection **WILL NOT BE DISPLAYED AT THE FAIR**. You are to take individual pictures of your collection pieces and label them with specifics and dates added to your collection. These pictures should be displayed in your notebook and new pictures added each year of your new items.
- If you are in Intermediate or above, place your new information in the back of your notebook, following previous year's project, and place a tab or marker where the newest information starts for your project this year. This will allow the judge to have quick and easy access to your current project while still being able to get a good overview of how your collection has grown over the years.
- If you start a new collection, keep the information from your previous collection in the front of your book, so that the judge may see the work that you have done up to this point. This project is judged on your notebook and how well you describe your ongoing collection each year. We hope to encourage you to keep precise records of important property in the future.

## **EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS**

Collections projects are not judged on the overall value of the collection but rather on the record keeping, story and display (pictures in notebook). Neatness of all 4-H exhibits is very important.

Exhibits will consist of a notebook complete with pictures of the items in your collection, a special written report, your updated 4-H COLLECTION RECORD and SUMMARY OF MY COLLECTION sheets. **NO ACTUAL ITEMS WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE FAIR.**

NOTE: 4-H'er must add at least 2 new items each year to their collection. The new items must be clearly identified in the inventory.

**Beginners: Grades 3, 4, 5**

Grade 3: You need at least 6 items in your collection.

Grade 4: You need at least 8 items in your collection.

Grade 5: You need at least 10 items in your collection.

4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade exhibits may consist of a continuation of your 3<sup>rd</sup> grade collection plus the required number of new items, or a new collection consisting of 8/10 items.

1. WRITE YOUR REPORT....Each notebook must begin with a report about your collection, how long you have been collecting and why you enjoy your collection. This report must be on a sheet of 8 ½"x11" paper. It can be written in ink or typed.
2. Exhibit a picture of each item in your collection, labeled with specifics and dates each item was added to your collection in your notebook.
3. Fill in the **4-H Collection Record and Summary of My Collection** sheets and put them in your notebook. These sheets should clearly reflect the pictures of the items in your collection. Please list approximate dates (month/day/year) so the judges will know when you acquired the item. Just putting the year does not give adequate information. You may copy these pages if you need more space to list the items in your collection.
4. Make sure you complete your General Record Sheet and include it in your Green Record Book. Bring it when you check in your project at the fair.

**Intermediate: Grades 6, 7, 8**

Grade 6: at least 12 items

Grade 7: at least 14 items

Grade 8: at least 16 items

Your collection may be a continuation of your Beginner collection with additions to meet the item number requirement for each age, or a new collection consisting of the appropriate number of items.

1. Update your notebook with pictures of items added to your collection since the last 4-H Fair. Add a new SUMMARY OF MY COLLECTION and 4-H COLLECTON RECORD each year showing items added to your collection and dates added since the last fair. Please use approximate dates, (month, day, and year) instead of just the year so the judge can tell which items you have added since the last fair.



2. You MUST add at least two items to your collection each year to continue in this project.
3. Exhibit your notebook. Add your new pictures, special report and information sheets, noting the additions to your collection, to the end of your notebook. Place a tab or marker showing the judge where the new information begins in your notebook. This will allow easy access to your current information plus allow the judge to see how your collection is continuing to grow each year.
4. If this is your first year taking collectibles, use the guidelines in the beginner division, using the number of items listed according to your grade.
5. Make sure you complete your General Record Sheet and include it in your Green Record Book. Bring it when you check in your project at the fair.

**Advanced: Grades 9, 10, 11, 12**

Grade 9: at least 18 items

Grade 10: at least 20 items

Grade 11: at least 22 items

Grade 12: at least 24 items

Collections may be a continuation of member's Beginner or Intermediate collection with additions to meet the item number of requirement for each age, or a new collection consisting of the appropriate number of items.

1. Update your notebook as outlined in Intermediate above.
2. Develop a new method to catalog the items in your collection and include in your notebook. (See examples above)
3. Exhibit your notebook. Be sure to include all previous year's information adding your current information to the back of the notebook using a tab or marker to show the judge where your new information begins. Make sure you include new pictures of the items added to your collection in the past year, your special report, all information sheets and your new way to catalog every item in your collection to your notebook.
4. If this is your first year taking collectibles, use the guidelines in the beginner division, using the number of items listed according to your grade.
5. Make sure you complete your General Record Sheet and include it in your Green Record Book. Bring it when you check in your project at the fair.

## Summary of My Collection

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Club \_\_\_\_\_

Years in Collectibles \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Collectibles with this collection \_\_\_\_\_ Years in 4-H \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your Collection: \_\_\_\_\_

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When did you begin your collection? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you choose to collect these items? \_\_\_\_\_

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How long have you been collecting these items? \_\_\_\_\_

How many items are in your collection? \_\_\_\_\_

What new items did you add to your collection this year? \_\_\_\_\_

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Where or how did you acquire the items in your collection? \_\_\_\_\_

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What is your favorite item in your collection and why is it your favorite? \_\_\_\_\_

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How is your favorite item displayed at your home? \_\_\_\_\_

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# Montgomery County 4-H Club General Record

Project name: \_\_\_\_\_ Div. or Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Club \_\_\_\_\_ Year in Club Work \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

Date Project started \_\_\_\_\_ Date Project Completed \_\_\_\_\_

I have reviewed this and believe it to be true.

Signature of Member \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Leader \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe - telling color, style, design, shape, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

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Materials Used : \_\_\_\_\_

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2. If you are making a poster or scrapbook, list title and theme. Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What have you learned while working on this project? What was new from last year?

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4. Where did you obtain information on how to complete project?  
(i.e. Library, school, friend, newspaper, parent etc.)

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5. Estimate time and cost of project.

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6. What would you do to change this project?

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7. What will you do with this project? (Start a collection, use as a gift, etc.)

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8. Add pictures if taken while working on this project.