

Noble County Mini 4-H



Collections

Mini 4-H Helper's page

Welcome to the Mini 4-H Program! Mini 4-H is designed for children in grades K-2 to explore a variety of project activity areas and to interact with caring adults and other children.

Children receive this project activity manual when they enroll in Mini 4-H. This manual and the manuals on various other topics will provide fun, age-appropriate learning activities throughout their year(s) in Mini 4-H.

As a Mini 4-H adult helper, your job will be to guide and encourage each child through the activities. A wide range of activities is provided to allow you to choose the ones most appropriate for the children you are working with. It is strongly suggested that you do not complete the activities for them, instead help them, guide them, work with them and let them do all that they possibly can. 4-H believes in allowing children to learn by doing. The Mini 4-H project activities are hands-on learning opportunities designed to provide a meaningful educational experience for youth.

Additionally, the Mini 4-H program is set up to allow children to display a project activity that is based upon information in this manual. Some children may want to exhibit at the 4-H Fair. The 4-H Fair is an exciting week that allows community youth to showcase their enthusiasm for learning. Children may choose to display a project activity they did by themselves or one they did with a group. Other children may choose to showcase their work in other ways, such as displaying it in a special place in their own home.

Mini 4-H is fun! Children will certainly enjoy it. You can have fun too, by guiding and helping as children participate in the program. Encourage and praise the children as they have fun learning and sharing with you. If you have any questions regarding Mini 4-H or other 4-H programs, please contact the Extension Office in your county.

Helper's Tips

The Mini 4-H Program can be used with individual children, but it works best when used in a group of 2 or more children. Children working cooperatively in groups develop positive images of themselves and their ideas. Other ways adult helpers can maximize the benefits of Mini 4-H are to:

- **Work on a subject interesting to the child by encouraging children to choose the content area.** Look through this manual and choose the project activities based on the interests and skill levels of the children
- **Relax and have fun.** Some children will want to finished their activities, others may not. There is no need to pressure children of this age to finish an activity, because the real learning takes place while they participate in the activity and interact with others. The finished project should not be the main focus. The knowledge children gain while they explore new areas and experiment with new ideas should be the primary goal.
- **Remain flexible and adapt to the changing needs of the children.** Restlessness or boredom may indicate a need to stop the activity and come back to it later.
- **Encourage children to talk and work with each other.** Children learn best when they are encouraged to freely share their reactions and observations. You may want to ask the children about what they did during an activity, what happened, what was the easiest, and what they like the most.

This manual contains activities for children that allow for a wide range of abilities and provide practice for developing a variety of skills.



Mini 4-H Page

Mini 4-H'ers have lots of fun! There are many activities for you to explore. You can try new things. You can share them with your friends and family.

Here are some things to know about 4-H.

The 4-H symbol is a four-leaf clover with an "H" in each leaf. Clover is a plant that grows in fields, yards and along roadsides. Most clovers have three leaves. Sometimes, if you look very carefully, you may get lucky and find a special clover with four leaves. A four-leaf clover is used as the symbol for 4-H to let everyone know 4-H is a special kind of group.



The 4-H colors are green and white. The four-leaf clover is green and the "H" in each leaf is white.

A group motto is a saying that tells people what is important to the group. **The 4-H motto** is "To make the best better." When something is better than all the others it is the best. Think about a time when you did your best. Maybe you threw a ball farther than you have ever thrown it before. Now, think about some ways you could do better. You may be able to throw farther by practicing for a while or by watching someone who can throw farther than you, to see how they throw so far. Even if you throw the ball farther than you have ever thrown it before. There are still ways that you can do better the next time. 4-H encourages you to always try to do better, even if you are doing the best you have ever done.

*"To make the
best better"*


The 4-H Pledge


A pledge is a promise you make to yourself and to the people around you. The 4-H pledge is a bold print below.


I pledge...


my **head** to clearer thinking,
my **heart** to greater loyalty,
my **hands** to larger service, and
my **health** to better living for
my **club**, my **community**,
my **country**, and my **world**.

What do these words mean?

I Pledge my Head  to clearer thinking, means I promise to use my head to make good choices.

My heart  to greater loyalty, means to use my heart to be a good friend.

My hands  to larger service, and, means to use my hands to do helpful things for others.

My health  to better living, means to take care of my body and to show others how to live in a healthy way.

For my club, my community, my country  and my world, means to help my group, my community, my country and my world be happy and safe for everyone.

* What Are Collections? *

A *collection* is a group of items that have something in common. We collect many things. Some things we enjoy collecting and other things we would rather not collect.

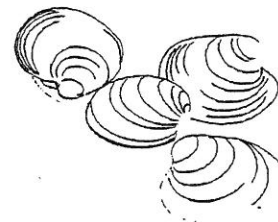
Do you like to collect things? Do you have special things that you look for when you are with your family or friends? Do you ever go on a walk and pick things up along the way? Many of us do ... and that is one way collections start.

▼ Activity 1 -- Collections Around the House

People collect many different things. Some examples of collections are stuffed animals, dolls, marbles, or cookie cutters.

You will need to find around the house:

- pencil
- this activity sheet



Here is what you do:

1. Pick 2 rooms in your house.
2. Go to the first room and list all of the things that are similar as a group or collection. Use the first column on the chart on the next page to help you keep track of the groups.
3. Next, go to the second room and list all of the things that are similar as a group or collection. Use the second column on the same chart to help you keep track of the groups.

List all of the things that are similar as a group or collection.

Room 1: _____		Room 2: _____

Here are some things to think about:

What rooms did you pick? Why? _____

Which room had the most groups of things? _____

What is your favorite collection? Why? _____

What was the funniest group of things? _____

* Why Collect Things? *

People collect things for a lot of reasons. For some people, it could have been a favorite toy when they were young. Some people like what things say. Other people collect things that their parents collected. Or they collect things that they think that they might need.

Most people collect because it is fun! Many collection do not cost very much. Other collections may cost thousands. Everyone can collect.

▼ Activity 2 -- What Do You Collect?

What you need to find around the house:

- pencil
- this activity sheet



Here is what you do:

1. List 5 things you collect.
2. Fill in the squares of the chart.

Thing	How many do you have?	Does this Collection cost very much?

Here are some things to think about:

What is your favorite collection? _____

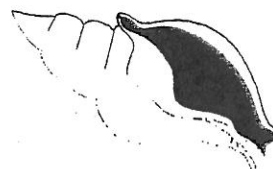
Why do you like to collect? _____

What are some things family members like to collect? _____

▼ Activity 3 -- Where Did It Come From?

What you need to find around the house:

- pencil
- this activity sheet



Here is what you do:

1. List 5 things you collect.
2. Investigate! Where did these things come from? Were they a gift? From who? Fill in the squares of the chart.

Thing	Where Did It Come From?

Here are some things to think about:

Were your items given to you? _____

Why do you think people gave you these things? _____

* Collections & History *

Many people begin collecting things because it has been "passed down to them" from a parent or grandparent. The item could be a special piece of jewelry. A person may get jewelry from different people. Suddenly, they have a collection.

Antiques are a favorite for many adults to collect. *Antiques* are things that are old. They will have special value because of its age. You can get an antique from family or friends. You can also buy antiques at special stores.

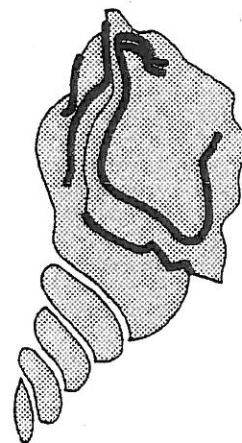
▼ Activity 4 -- Antiques

What you need to find around the house:

- pencil
- this activity sheet

Here is what you do:

1. Visit a museum, library or shop that has antiques. Find 5 antiques that you like.
2. Fill in the squares of the chart.



Antique	How old is it?	How much is it worth?

Here are some things to think about:

What was the oldest thing you found? _____

What was the most expensive thing you found? _____

Why does it cost so much? _____

Was there any antique collections? What were they? (example - dishes) _____

What was your favorite antique? Why? _____

* How to Begin My Collection? *

The fun thing about collecting is that you can collect anything that you want. There is not a right or wrong collection.

The best place to begin is to explore. What do you like to do? What kinds of things do you like?

Try collecting things that are easy to find around the house or yard. Many people collect leaves, rocks, feathers, seeds or insects. Once you get the hang of collecting, try a second collection. There are so many things that you can collect. Here is a short list. Can you name more?

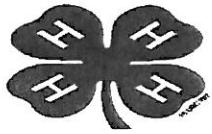
Stamps
Pencils
Buttons

Pictures
Post Cards
Dolls

Coins
Medals
Toy Trucks

Stickers
Shells
Coffee Mugs

Need help identifying them? You can look up your items in books at home or at your library. Many parents, friends or hobby stores can help, too. If you are collecting insects, you do not need to know the scientific name. So what are you going to collect?



4-H Fair Exhibit

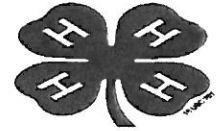


Exhibit – Kindergarten

A collection of 3 items, or pair of items, you have collected.

Exhibit – 1st Grade:

A collection of 5 items, or pair of items, you have collected.

Exhibit – 2nd Grade:

A collection of 10 items, or pair of items, you have collected.

You can exhibit your collection in many ways. You may be creative! But, make sure that when you put your collection together that it will stay together through Fair.

Still need some hints? You can make a poster or scrapbook, use a shoe or cigar box, and egg cartons work great, too! Are your items very small? Try plastic bags or bottles. Anything will work if it helps keep your collection neat and clean.

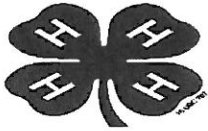
If your collection is valuable, you may take it home after judging, but you should take pictures of your collection and leave them for display at the Fair.

Poster Construction Rules: (if your exhibit is on a poster)

All posters are to be covered with clear plastic and have a stiff, non-flexible backing. All posters are to be **14” HIGH x 22” WIDE**. You may use any color of poster board. Each poster project should have a title.

All projects are to have a name label on them. You will receive a Mini 4-H newsletter in the mail prior to the Fair that will contain name labels.

If you have any questions about your project, please call the Extension Office at 636-2111 or 1-800-601-5826.



4-H Fair Exhibit

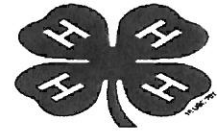


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A collection of 3 items, or pair of items, you have collected.

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Noble County Mini 4-H Record Sheet

Name _____ Grade in School _____

Address _____

4-H Club _____ Township _____

Number of years in Mini 4-H _____ Number of years in project _____

Member's Signature _____

Parent's Signature _____

Leader's Signature _____

A. Project: _____

B. Estimated number of hours worked to complete project _____

C. Money spent on project:

Cost of supplies: (list) _____

OR _____

Foods – number of _____

times made _____

D. List the things that you learned while you were doing Mini 4-H:
