

Guidelines for Entomology Collections

I. **Identification Accuracy**- be able to identify the order and the common name or family/species name. There are many books available to help with identification. The libraries have good field guides. Some good choices would be Peterson's Field Guides, National Audubon Society Field Guide, Eyewitness Handbooks, Insect Identification Guide by Gary Dunn.

II. **Mounting of Species**- proper pinning and pointing techniques must be used. The 4-H Entomology Series has a Basic Entomology Manual 1 (4-H 1335) that show the proper techniques for pinning the different orders. Also use insect pins. These do not rust like a regular sewing pin, and they come in different sizes for different insects. They also carry the small vials for preserving caterpillars and larvae or immature insects. Wings can be very difficult to spread properly, especially on butterflies. Take your time. 1st year projects may want to concentrate on basic insects.

III. **Labeling**- The labels must be legible (you can use computers) The labels should include the following: name of insect, date, collectors name, location. Place them properly on the pin.

IV. **Collection Arrangement**- The insects need to be in good condition (legs, wings etc attached to body). Hint: try to collect more than one of a species, legs do fall off when trying to pin! They should be lined up in rows or columns. The display box needs to be neat. There are plans for making the boxes in the above 4-H manual.

The project must be the work of the 4-H member. It is understandable that younger children will need more guidance and help than older ones, but they can still do the majority of work. It is their learning experience!

Each members project is judged on their own merit according to their experience, age, ability and the above guidelines. Best of Show is chosen over all projects.