



# 4-H Entomology Project

Kansas 4-H focuses on the mastery of 5 life skills:

1. A positive self-concept
2. An inquiring mind
3. A concern for the community
4. Healthy interpersonal relationships
5. Sound decision making

The subject matter content in 4-H focuses primarily on three mission areas:

1. science
2. healthy living
3. citizenship and leadership

## Advice from a 4-H'er

*From: Chase, Age 13 (2015)*

I have learned a lot through the Entomology project. I started when I was six years old so I could collect more bugs than the other kids who didn't start collecting until the year that they were eligible to exhibit their bugs at the fair. I had lots of fun collecting bugs. The pinning took practice to perfect. The Entomology project has taught me to be more organized because of the organization needed to organize my bug collection.

My advice to any beginner Entomology project participants would be to not get down on yourself after pinning a bug incorrectly or breaking a bug. It happens to everybody, including me. You can collect another specimen of that species. Also, keep trying. If at your first or second year of fair you don't do very well, keep at it. You will get there eventually. It took me a couple years to start doing well at fair. If your first few years don't go very well in general, keep at it. Overall, the Entomology project will teach you many life skills that will prove valuable in your future.



Example of an entomology display

## Project levels

Age 7-9	Age 10-13	Age 14 +
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Learn what insects do for us.</li> <li>◆ Learn the basic parts of an insect.</li> <li>◆ Collect and identify different insects.</li> <li>◆ Learn about plants and other insects that insects may eat.</li> <li>◆ Learn about insect predators.</li> <li>◆ Learn how insects pollinate plants.</li> <li>◆ Learn how to pin insects for display.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Learn how insects adapt to their environments.</li> <li>◆ Learn about insect life cycles.</li> <li>◆ Participate in developing a butterfly garden</li> <li>◆ Learn to build insect traps.</li> <li>◆ Participate in the Butterfly WINGS, Lost Lady Bug or Pollinator: Live online learning activities.</li> <li>◆ Discover the different ways insects survive winter.</li> <li>◆ Learn how color influences insect life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Start an insect collecting club.</li> <li>◆ Learn about insect control methods in forestry.</li> <li>◆ Do an insect survey for a local farmer or city garden.</li> <li>◆ Experiment with insect populations in organic production.</li> <li>◆ Participate in beekeeping or start a honey business.</li> <li>◆ Mentor other youth in online survey activities.</li> </ul>

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.



Events	Curriculum	4-H Record Book
<p>State &amp; County Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Club Day</li> <li>◆ County Fair</li> <li>◆ State Fair</li> <li>◆ Discovery Days</li> </ul> <p>Check with your club to see what opportunities are offered at the club level as well.</p>	<p>Available to purchase at the Extension Office (check to make sure it's in stock)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Collecting Exhibits</li> <li>◆ Entomology Labels</li> <li>◆ Butterfly Project Book</li> </ul> <p>Entomology curriculum can also be purchased at the K-State online bookstore or the 4-H Mall.</p>	<p>4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their personal experiences, learning and development.</p> <p>4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals</p> <p>For more information visit <a href="http://www.johnson.k-state.edu/4-h/forms-resources/record-books.html">www.johnson.k-state.edu/4-h/forms-resources/record-books.html</a></p>

## Resources:

### Visit

<http://www.johnson.k-state.edu/4-h/project-club-resources/projects.html>

to also find the following links.

### Kansas 4-H Entomology Website:

- ◆ <http://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/agriculture-and-natural-resources/entomology.html>

### Other helpful Entomology websites around the country:

- ◆ <http://www.extension.umn.edu/youth/mn4-H/projects/environment/entomology/collecting-and-preserving-insects/>
- ◆ <http://urbanext.illinois.edu/insects/01.html>
- ◆ [http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/natural\\_resources/Projects/entomology/Box%20Plans.pdf](http://www.four-h.purdue.edu/natural_resources/Projects/entomology/Box%20Plans.pdf)
- ◆ <http://www.earthlife.net/insects/six.html>
- ◆ <http://www2.ca.uky.edu/entomology/entfacts/ef006.asp>



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## Exploring Opportunities

- ◆ Give a presentation on your favorite insect.
- ◆ Make a video on how to collect and pin insects.
- ◆ Monitor the city park for mosquito populations.
- ◆ Adopt and maintain a butterfly flower garden at a park.
- ◆ Offer to monitor and control insects in an organic garden.
- ◆ Help an adult teach a class about insects.

## Exhibit Ideas

- ◆ Exhibit an insect collection at the county fair.
- ◆ Make an educational poster or notebook about an entomology topic.
- ◆ Create a logbook and picture record of one year of insect surveys in your area.
- ◆ Complete an exhibit of the equipment needed for beekeeping.
- ◆ Keep an insect journal.

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