



4-H Entomology Project



Are You Into It?

The Entomology project is open to youth between 5 and 18 years of age.

Entomology is the study of insects. Insects are the most abundant animals on Earth and can be found almost everywhere. Over one million insects have been identified and new discoveries are frequently being made. Insects have been on Earth for hundreds of millions of years and are interesting and fun to explore. Youth that are involved with this project:

- Investigate beneficial insects and the challenges they face;
- Explore the world of invasive and non-native insects and pests;
- Study the life cycles and characteristics of insect species;
- Learn more about other arthropods, such as chelicerates and myriapods;
- Take hikes and field trips to zoos, museums and parks to observe insects.

Here's what you can do all year!

Starting Out Basic

- Walk around your yard or a local park, take pictures of insects and identify them.
- Talk to your local Extension Agent about beneficial insects.
- Visit the Florida Museum of Natural History: <http://www.flmnh.ufl.edu>.
- Participate in the Forest Ecology program.
- Make a butterfly habitat in your yard.
- Take a nature hike to discover ecosystems and food chains.

Learning More Intermediate

- Explore what careers are available in the field of entomology.
- Practice and teach about conservation practices.
- Examine new ways that we are managing pests.
- Learn about the history of insects on earth and create a timeline.
- Participate in the Junior Master Gardener program.
- Invite Master Gardeners or your Horticulture Extension Agent to speak to your club about insects in the garden.

Expanding Horizons Advanced

- Take the Jr. Florida Friendly Landscaping class and then teach others about responsible yard management.
- Assist your 4-H Extension Agent with a workshop.
- Make a video about the topics you studied in the Entomology project.
- Investigate the impacts that insects have on our health and economy – here and worldwide.
- Visit a university and speak with entomology researchers.

Step It Up!

Pass it on! Now that you know how, share it with others. Here are ideas to get you started.

Citizenship/ Leadership

- Explore careers in science related fields: forensic entomologist, pest control worker, biology teacher, beekeeper, or pathologist.
- Teach others about environmentally safe Integrated Pest Management techniques.

Communication

- Give an Illustrated Talk, Demonstration or Speech about biodiversity, pesticide and insecticide use, or a species or family of insect.
- Give a workshop at your club or county level about insects.
- Create a video about insects you have identified in your area.

Healthy Living

- Examine pests and how they spread diseases, damage crops, and affect our daily lives.
- Employ Integrated Pest Management tools in your home and yard.
- Consider the links between food systems and insects.

Science

- Purchase milkweed plants and observe the life cycle of the monarch butterfly.
- Start a bug collection.
- Order ladybugs, release them into your garden, and record how they manage aphids on plants, or start an ant farm.
- Visit your local USDA agent to learn about invasive insects.



Expand Your Experiences in Entomology

- Join the Florida 4-H Bug Club: http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/bug_club/100_insects/index.shtml.
- Contact your County Extension Office to participate: <http://sfyl.ifas.ufl.edu/map/index.shtml> and enroll at <https://florida.4honline.com>.
- Invite speakers to present at a club meeting, such as a biologist or researcher.
- Apply to be a Junior Camp Counselor (Counselor in Training) at a Florida 4-H Camping Center when you are 14-17 years old: <http://florida4h.org/camps/>.
- Apply to be a summer staff member at a Florida 4-H Camping Center after you graduate from high school: <http://florida4h.org/getinvolved/>.
- Attend Florida 4-H University and participate in workshops, listen to motivational speakers, and participate in a community service project: <http://florida4h.org/programsandevents/>.
- Interested in a college education in the area? Schedule a visit to the University of Florida and learn more: <http://www.ufl.edu/admissions/>.

Project Sharing Ideas

- Give an Illustrated Talk, Speech or Demonstration at County Events or to a local organization.
- Create a brochure or enter photos in County Events that focuses on an aspect of your Entomology project.
- Create a game board, worksheet, or puzzle to use with youth and share the results.
- Enter an exhibit in your local fair to showcase Entomology.

Resources

4-H Project Resources

Project materials to assist youth in learning may be available through your county 4-H office: or you can order the following directly from National 4-H www.4-hmall.org:

- ABC's of Entomology
- Teaming With Insects
- Entomology
- Project Butterfly Wings
- Amphibians
- Photography
- Gardening
- Forest Ecology
- Outdoor Adventures
- GPS and GIS
- Sport-fishing
- Exploring Your Environment
- Backyards and Beyond

Connections and Events

Attending events and taking advantage of opportunities that will expand your project learning will help you become the best you can be.

Attend local 4-H opportunities

Become a camp counselor for your local and state 4-H camp <http://florida4h.org/camps/>.

Attend other statewide events. Check them all out at www.florida4h.org.

Record Keeping

Learning to take good records of what you do and what you spend for your project is a 4-H life skill. The following record keeping forms can help you keep track of your activities.

Project Report Forms can be found at <http://florida4h.org>

- Junior (ages 8-10)
- Intermediate (ages 11-13)
- Senior (ages 14-18)
- Financial Summary
- Building My 4-H Portfolio (ages 8-13)

Awards and Recognition

Certificates, pins, ribbons, trophies, trips and/or scholarships are awarded based on quality of performance at the county, district, state and national levels.

To learn more about current recognition opportunities visit the Florida 4-H website at <http://florida4h.org> or contact your County 4-H Extension Agent.

Learn more at florida4h.org

or contact your local UF/IFAS Extension County Office

4-H
GROWING TOGETHER