

# 2018 Florida 4-H Insect Collection Contest

**The Insect Collection Contest will be held during the Insectathon Event, January 20, 2018.**

Buzzing, humming, leaping—insects are fascinating. They do many things that people do. Some insects raise crops and herd insect "cattle." There are insect architects, carpenters, tunnel-makers, hunters, and undertakers. Insects are all around us—living in our houses, puncturing our skin, eating our food and clothing, and pollinating or attacking our plants. They live deep underground in caves, in rivers, on deserts, as far away as the Arctic Circle, and as near as the room you are sitting in.

We already know about 1,000,000 species of insects, and there are even more to be discovered. There are about 280,000 different species of beetles alone! Then there are 140,000 species of butterflies and moths; 115,000 species of wasps, bees, and ants; and 87,000 species of flies, gnats, and mosquitoes.

In this project, you will discover the world of insects. Each year you will display a collection of insects.

## **Registration**

Register at Florida 4-H Online. You do not have to attend to submit a collection. You may send your collection with your county extension agent or your 4-H leader. Collections may be delivered and returned by the county 4-H agent, so be sure to make contact with them about your interest in Entomology.

There will be a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner for juniors, intermediates, and seniors. And, there will be one age winner per division for the specialty collection.

## General Rules

1. Collect, properly mount, and label **the minimum number of different insects**. Try to represent as many as possible of the **27 orders** known to be found in Florida.
2. You may include insects collected for previous divisions.
3. You will use only adult insects in your insect collection for this division. No immature insects.
4. Only one of each insect unless male and female are significantly different.
5. Insects must be pinned using "Insect Pins" from one of the entomological supply companies. These pins are narrower, sharper, and treated so they will not rust.
6. You **MAY NOT** use insects that have been purchased from an insect supply house. Judges can easily detect these specimens and will **DISQUALIFY** your collection!
7. **In your box, place a small card with your name, club, and county in the lower right hand corner.**

**Insect Collecting 101:** [http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/bug\\_club/ent-events/collecting101.shtml](http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/bug_club/ent-events/collecting101.shtml)

**Hints for Making a Winning Collection:** [http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/bug\\_club/ent-events/hints-winning-collection.shtml](http://entnemdept.ufl.edu/bug_club/ent-events/hints-winning-collection.shtml)

### Cloverbuds

- Cloverbuds may submit 1-5 insects pinned or on cotton batting in a cardboard box.

### Juniors

Juniors may use Cornell drawers, insect boxes (usually black cardboard boxes with clear tops), or Bioquip cardboard boxes.

Junior winners will be determined by:

- Insect identification
- Pinning technique
- Labeling quality

Age requirements will be taken into consideration in judging.

Identify each insect by order **AND** its common name or the true scientific family name (insect family common names such as: stink bug for Pentatomidae; blister beetle for Meloidae; bee for Apidae; or muscid fly for Muscidae are acceptable).

4-H Age	Display	Maximum # of Boxes
8	Minimum 10 insects Identified, pinned, and labeled	1
9	Minimum 20 insects Identified, mounted, and labeled Identify all insects by common name and identify 5 insects with their orders	1
10	Minimum 30 insects Identified, mounted, and labeled Identify all insects by common name and identify 15 insects with their orders	1

## Intermediates

Intermediates may use Cornell drawers or insect boxes. No Bioquip cardboard boxes

Intermediate winners will be determined by:

- Insect identification
- Collection diversity
- Pinning technique
- Labeling quality

Age requirements will be taken into consideration in judging.

4-H Age	Display	Maximum # of Boxes
11	Minimum 40 insects, minimum of 6 orders Identified, mounted, and labeled Identify all insects by common name and order	2
12	Minimum 50 insects, minimum of 8 orders Identified, mounted, and labeled Identify all insects by common name and order. Identify 10 to family.	2
13	Minimum 60 insects, minimum of 10 orders Identified, mounted, and labeled Identify all insects by common name and order. Identify 30 to family.	2

## Seniors

Seniors must use Cornell drawers.

### Educational theme

- Create a collection box based off of their assigned theme (minimum 10 insects for educational collection box)
- Develop a printed PowerPoint about their theme to submit with their box
- Present their collection box and PowerPoint in front of a panel of judges
- Presentations should be 5-12 minutes and will follow the Florida 4-H Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks guidelines. The state scoresheet will be used:  
[http://florida4h.org/staff/Awards\\_Handbook/module\\_3/score\\_sheets/demostration\\_scoresheet.pdf](http://florida4h.org/staff/Awards_Handbook/module_3/score_sheets/demostration_scoresheet.pdf)

Senior winners will be determined by:

- Insect identification
- Collection diversity
- Pinning technique
- Labeling quality
- Presentation quality
- Educational box innovativeness

Age requirements will be taken into consideration in judging.

4-H Age	Display	Educational Theme	Maximum # of Boxes
14	Minimum 70 insects, minimum of 12 orders Identified, mounted, and labeled Identify all insects by common name, order, and family.	Insect Behavior	3 + 1 educational box
15	Minimum 80 insects, minimum of 14 orders Identified, mounted, and labeled Identify all insects by common name, order, and family.	Insect Pest Management	3 + 1 educational box
16	Minimum 90 insects, minimum of 16 orders Identified, mounted, and labeled Identify all insects by common name, order, and family.	Benefits of Insects	3 + 1 educational box
17-18	Minimum 100 insects, minimum of 18 orders Identified, mounted, and labeled Identify all insects by common name, order, and family.	Insects in Medicine	3 + 1 educational box

## **Specialty Collection Division**

Participants must use wooden glass top drawers of any size.

The specialty collection division will allow 4-H members to demonstrate knowledge in a specific entomology area. The specialty collection could be based on a specific order (Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, etc.), could show specific insect damage (insects that damage vegetable crops), could be based on environment (insects of upland hardwood ecosystems), could show invasive insects or non-insect arthropods, or more. This collection will be accompanied by an essay that explains why this collection was chosen and what was learned while creating the collection.

### **Specialty collections for all ages will have a minimum of 10 specimens.**

#### Juniors

- Essays should include 3 paragraphs and a minimum of 150 words.

#### Intermediates

- Essays should include 4 paragraphs and a minimum of 300 words.

#### Seniors

- Essays should include 5 paragraphs and a minimum of 500 words.

4-H age winners will be determined by:

- Insect identification
- Collection diversity
- Pinning technique
- Labeling quality
- Collection innovativeness
- Uniqueness
- Essay