

COLLECTIONS:

Marathon County 4H
Cultural Arts - Department 18
Collections - Division B - Creative Arts
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Collection Clinic - Project Discovery Day
February 22, 2020

WHAT IS A COLLECTION?

Webster defines collection as: the act or process of collecting; something collected; a group (of same type of things). I would say that is the definition I was looking for. A collection may be items of similar style, color or design. The term "collection" is really up to your interpretation and how you present it to the Judge.

COLLECTIONS - DEPT. 18, DIVISION B

As a collector and one of the superintendents of Cultural Arts at the fair, I asked to have collections added to the list of projects in Cultural Arts under Creative Arts a few years back.

There were no guidelines as to the rules set forth under this Division. However, it's been improving as we progress each year. This collection clinic is an opportunity for you the exhibitor, to learn how to display and present your collection to the judge. This is under creative arts and it really is judged that way, how creative you showcase your collection. Entry day of the fair (Tuesday) you will come to Cultural Arts - Department 18 and ask for the key to the display case. You will have time to set up your collection in that case. Each collection should be between 5-10 items NO MORE than 10. Each shelf is approximately 12" x 3'. Your collection may consist of small items and you may only need half of a shelf, that's o.k. Once finished, you come back to the check in table and wait to talk to the judge. When it's your turn, you take the judge to the display case, a superintendent will open it for you and you share your collection with them. When you are done, the case is locked back up and the judge will write down some comments on your 4H Collections Project Record Sheet. Ribbons and sheet will be placed in the display case next to each collection. A collection, display and presentation could be up for a Merit ribbon. All collections will remain at the fair in the locked case until Sunday.

HOW DO I BEGIN?

Well, as with anything 4H related, you need to be enrolled in Cultural Arts to exhibit at the fair. So, go check to make sure you are, you have until March 1 to add departments to your enrollment.

"I'M NOT A COLLECTOR?"

I'm the type of person who is interested in many different things. Over the years I have had all kinds of collections. As you age or your collection becomes complete the desire to collect may move on to a new collection. That's great! Over the years, I have bought and sold many collections. Each time you find an item for your collection, that only increases the value of your collection as a whole. Now, I've bought more than I've sold....it's addicting. However, it can be an investment. I would suggest you always collect items you are interested in. Don't just collect items because you think it will be valuable one day, that doesn't always happen. However, the value in learning about items, their history that's priceless.

A collection can be 5-10 of the same type of items, but doesn't have to be. It could be 5-10 of the same color item, not necessarily the same item. It could be 5-10 items you purchased while on vacation. It could be 5-10 items found around your home. It could be 5-10 items found on the beach. It could be 5-10 items grandma gave you. So the term "collection" doesn't mean it has to be old, or valuable or something you actually collect. It is more of the definition of a group of items from a particular (fill in the blank). When I ask 4H kids, "are you going to bring in a collection?" I often hear "I don't collect anything." So, there you have it, you don't need to be a collector to display a collection at the fair. You may also have a large enough collection of something that you may be able to do multiple years of the same collection. 4H Collector's Cost Log can be added to and shown from year to year along with the collection.

YOUR COLLECTION:

1. Select what your plan to display. A "collection" is unlimited to your imagination.
2. Plan your display. How can I best showcase this collection?
3. Create your description cards - let the public know what it is.
4. Fill out your 4H Collections Project Record Sheet - available entry day
5. Showcase your knowledge with the judge.

1. COLLECTION SELECTION:

Be creative

2. THE DISPLAY:

The creative art part is how you display it. Keep these things in mind:

- A. Anchor your collection. Don't just put it on the shelf. Think of how you could use something to "frame" out your collection. If I were bringing a collection of chicken figurines, I may choose to find some chicken fabric, or use a feed sack or chicken cardstock. Something that relates to your collection, under it.
- B. Stage your collection. Think about how it will be seen from the outside. Place large items in the back. If all items are the same size, place some on small boxes or containers. You may even choose to do that to show interest in varying heights. In the same chicken collection, I may choose to use an egg carton as an item to stage for height. Think about your collection and what would make it stand out.
- C. Be creative. You have at the very least half of the shelf to fill. Use your space wisely and creatively display your collection within the case.

3. DESCRIPTION CARDS:

- A. Each collection should have an index size card stating what the collection is. Chicken Collection.
- B. On that index card you should say some kind of history of the collection. "These chicken figurines are from 1940-1950, all ceramic, made in USA, - general information of collection as a whole.
- C. In addition to the index card, you will need to provide identification of each item within your collection. This should be placed next to each item. "Barred Rock" or something that explains why it is different from the other's within that collection.

4. 4H COLLECTIONS PROJECT RECORD SHEET:

This will be provided to you before the fair. There will be some available on entry day too. I have included a sample in this packet. This information will be handed to the judge before you talk about your collection. The judge will ask you questions about your collection and this will help prepare not only you, but them.

5. SHOWCASE YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

Be excited to share what you know about your collection with the judge. They may ask you questions about it, so be prepared. Your demonstration skills are also being judged. The more you know about it, the better. If grandpa started you on the journey to collecting this...tell them!

IN CONCLUSION:



