

4-H ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY EXHIBITS



Judges will use the criteria outline in this tip sheet to **evaluate exhibits** that represent **environmental collections**.

If the exhibit is **intended to inform** it's audience about an environmental topic—use the **Poster Exhibits Tip Sheet**.

If the exhibit represents an **engineering solution** to and environmental problem—use the **Engineering Exhibit Tip Sheet**.

If the exhibit represents a **scientific investigation** of an environmental question—use the **Scientific Investigation Tip Sheet**.

If the exhibit **uses technology** to accomplish a task or render an environmental service—use the **Using Technology Tip Sheet**.

What's the judge looking for?

For all exhibits, be prepared to explain:

- 1) What did you plan to learn or do? (What was your exhibit goal(s)?)
- 2) What steps did you take to learn or do this? Explain what you wanted to do so it is easily understood. The judge wants to know and understand the steps you used to make your exhibit.
- 3) What were the most important things you learned?

Insect collections:

- A good resource on how to properly collect, dry, mount and label insect specimens is **Making an Entomology Exhibit** <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/Publications/4H422.pdf>
- Beginning collections display 5 orders and 25 species. Advanced display 15 orders and 110 species.
- Labels: 2 labels are needed, written in ink, of uniform size make from stiff paper below the insect. Top label contains: location collected, date collected, collectors name. Bottom label contains where found (habitat) and insect common name.
- All pins should be placed vertically and to the right of the midline with ¼ to 1/3 of the pin projecting above the specimen. See the publication above for pinning guidelines.
- Display insects in a tight box that reduces other "insects" eating your collection. Moth balls can be included.



Plants Collections (leaves, weeds, flowers, grasses, seeds, etc.)

- A good resource for how to properly collect, dry, mount, and label your plant specimens is <http://herbarium.usu.edu/k-12/collecting/specimens.htm>.
- All specimens should be properly dried and labeled.
 - Labels should be on one corner of the mounting paper.
 - The label should include: Common name, Genus and species, Place Collected, Date collected, collector's name, and any other information you want to note.

Other collections (wood grain cross-sections, rocks, etc.)

- Make sure all specimens are properly labeled using the system explained under Plants.
- Make sure everything is neat and secured properly.
- In case of wood grains - it is recommended to sand and stain them.