

4-H Training Topics - *Insectaganza of Excitement*



Background:

4-H *Insectaganza of Excitement* will help youth discover ways to learn about insects, their behavior, and their life history. The series includes three **Youth Guides** -- **Creepy Crawlies, What's Bugging You?, Dragons, Houses, and Other Flies, and a Helper's Guide.**

Preparation:

Make copies of **Creepy Crawlies, Insect Body Parts, page 7.** Set insects on the tables. If there's time, collect children's songs about insects.

Allow 30 minutes for preparation and set-up.

Resource:

Helper's Guide, Buggy Word Glossary Game, page 15, Creepy Crawlies, Bugs R Us, pages 6-7.

Materials Needed:

- Copies, one per person, of **Helper's Guide, Buggy Word Glossary Game, page 15,** and **Creepy Crawlies, Insect Body Parts, page 7;**
- Clay in a variety of colors;
- Variety of insects available for staff to look at including stuffed animals, insect collections, or pictures in books. A local county 4-H member might be willing to share their entomology collection for this activity;
- At least one complete copy of the *Insectaganza of Excitement* materials.



1 Opening Activity

What to Do	What to Say	Minutes
Welcome everyone as they arrive. Have them pick up a copy of the Insect Scramble to work on while waiting to start.	Welcome. Be sure to pick up a word search sheet and complete it by asking others to help find words. Meet as many people as possible in 4 minutes.	4

2 Curriculum

What to Do	What to Say	Minutes
Show the <i>Insectaganza of Excitement</i> project books.	<i>Insectaganza of Excitement</i> is designed for children and youth in grades 2-12. There is a Helper's Guide and three Project Guides.	2

3 Staff Introductions

What to Do	What to Say	Minutes
Take a few minutes for introductions.	Hello, I'm _____ and have been with CYS Services for _____ years. Please introduce yourself, where you work and length of service.	3

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4 Doing an Activity

What to Do	What to Say	Minutes
<p>Show the research supplies.</p> <p>Give staff time to make an insect.</p> <p>Have each staff member show their insect and tell one thing that is similar to other insects or something that is different.</p>	<p>Insects, like people, are similar yet different. Do you know what parts of all insects are the same?</p> <p>Today we are going to do a little research on insects and then have a chance to create an insect out of clay. Because all insects have some body parts in common, those you create will likely have some common features like a head, thorax, and abdomen. An insects head has eyes, a mouth, and antennae. The thorax (chest) has legs and wings. The abdomen (belly) has an ovipositor if it is female.</p> <p>There are a number of books as well as pictures here on insects. Do a bit of research using these resources and then, using the clay, create an insect.</p>	20

5 Sharing Ideas

What to Do	What to Say	Minutes
<p>Ask the group to share some of the things learned from the experience and ideas they have for using it.</p>	<p>Was this activity helpful in learning more about insects? Was it fun? What other materials could be used to create the insects? Will young people enjoy this activity? Is there anything that should be changed or added? Will completing this activity create an interest in the 4-H project? What careers are connected with insects?</p>	3

6 Applying the Experience

What to Do	What to Say	Minutes
<p>Apply this experience to other activities used in the CYS Services program.</p>	<p>Are there ways some of the concepts and activities in <i>Insectaganza of Excitement</i> could be used in other programming areas? How might the activity we just completed be changed and used in one of the Service Areas?</p>	3

7 Making a Plan

What to Do	What to Say	Minutes
<p>Make a plan for starting the 4-H <i>Insectaganza of Excitement</i> project.</p>	<p>Now it's time to work as a group and set some dates for the project. When should the group meet again for more planning and reflection? How should ideas be collected from the children and youth? Who is the adult project leader? When should the project begin?</p>	8

8 Closing

What to Do	What to Say	Minutes
<p>Summarize and close.</p>	<p><i>Insectaganza of Excitement</i> teaches a number of life skills and is a project that can lead to a lifetime hobby. Get ideas from the youth and plan 6 to 10 activities for the project.</p> <p>Thank you for your interest and enthusiasm.</p>	2