*** Entry forms must be submitted no later than Monday, September 21, 2026 to enter the contest. You may email the form to Stephanie Blevins Wycoff at slblevin@vt.edu or mail it to 460 West Campus Drive, 302 Agnew Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061. Please visit hokiebugfest.org for more information about the contest.***

Hokie BugFest
October 10, 2026

It's time to get collecting!! Start an insect collection and have it judged for the Hokie BugFest 4-H Insect Collection Contest. The festival will occur in-person on Saturday, October 10, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Squires Student Center in Blacksburg, VA.

Collect as many insects as you can and identify them as accurately as possible. Pin them or store them in your freezer until you are ready to pin them. Each collection should have a total of 50 specimens. Check your identifications with bugguide.net.

Scoring guidelines:

Insect Collection Grading Areas	Possible Points
50 insects: representing at least 6 out of 8 listed groups	25
Correct identification of insects to order (Diptera, Coleoptera, etc.): use Latin (scientific) names	25
Correct pinning technique as shown in the 4-H activity book	20
Specimen quality: has most body parts, not smashed or faded	15
Display quality: arrangement of insects, attractive display, viewable case	15
Bonus: judge's discretion based on overall effort level, accuracy, and creativity	10
Total	110

Age groups:
- Junior Collectors: Ages 8 to 13
- Senior Collectors: Ages 14 to 18

Winners:
Collections will be awarded first, second, and third place in each age category based on the scoring guidelines. The top collection will be awarded "Best in Show" and will receive a grand prize. All participants and their collections will receive recognition!!

Who can enter:
Any individual, team, or group is eligible. Group or team entries are encouraged. Individuals within groups can contribute their best specimens to the collection, which is judged as a team entry. Entries should include the name of the individual/team/group, the county, and the contact person for that group (with phone number and email address).

VTPP Virginia Tech Pesticide Programs

ENTOMOLOGY VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law.

*** Entry forms must be submitted no later than Monday, September 21, 2026 to enter the contest. You may email the form to Stephanie Blevins Wycoff at slblevin@vt.edu or mail it to 460 West Campus Drive, 302 Agnew Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061. Please visit hokiebugfest.org for more information about the contest.***

How to enter:
Fill out the attached entry form and email it to slblevin@vt.edu by September 21, 2026. Information about drop-off / pick-up times and judging will be announced on hokiebugfest.org closer to the event. Any collection that is not picked up after the event will be donated to the Entomology Department at Virginia Tech.

Suggested supplies:
Foam, pins, magnifying glass, and killing jar (a mason jar with a paper towel and a little nail polish remover works well). Make sure to pin insects from your kill jar right away or store them in the freezer until you are ready to pin them. See the 4-H activity book "Adventures with Insects" for tips on finding, collecting, and pinning insects.

Resources:
"Adventures with Insects" – 4-H Activity Book
https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/bitstream/handle/10919/56148/444-408.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y
Also, check your local library for field guides, insect books, and other resources!

Good places to collect:
- State and local parks
- Hiking trails
- Around ponds and lakes
- Local gardens and fields
- Forests
- Agricultural and livestock fields
- Outside YOUR house!
- You will have to GET OUTSIDE!!!

Questions: Contact Stephanie Blevins Wycoff at slblevin@vt.edu or (540) 231-6543.

WARNING: Be careful collecting insects such as wasps, bees, velvet ants, and Asian needle ants that may sting or bite. Do not go on private land without the owner's permission. Ask your parents or guardians before going bug hunting, and be aware of your surroundings. Watch out for mosquitoes, ticks, and spiders such as black widows. If you have known allergies to bees or other insects, this contest may not be for you. Have fun and be safe!

See page 3 for collection entry form.

See page 4 for groups of commonly found insects.

See page 5 for insect collection labels.

VTPP Virginia Tech Pesticide Programs

ENTOMOLOGY VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law.

*** Entry forms must be submitted no later than Monday, September 21, 2026 to enter the contest. You may email the form to Stephanie Blevins Wycoff at slblevin@vt.edu or mail it to 460 West Campus Drive, 302 Agnew Hall, Blacksburg, VA 24061. Please visit hokiebugfest.org for more information about the contest.***

4-H Insect Collection Entry Form
Hokie BugFest (October 10, 2026)

Contact Person for Individual / Team / Group Collection

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____ County: _____

Individual / Group Information

Name or Team / Group Name: _____

Age Group (Check One): ☐ Jr. Collectors (8-13) ☐ Sr. Collectors (14-18)

Names of Collectors: _____

_____

_____

*** For team/group collections, if you cannot fit all names above, please attach a separate sheet with names to identify all participants.***

---------- **DO NOT WRITE BELOW DOTTED LINE, JUDGES ONLY** ----------

Scoring guidelines:

Insect Collection Grading Areas	Points Earned	Possible Points
50 insects: representing at least 6 out of 8 listed groups		25
Correct identification of insects to order (Diptera, Coleoptera, etc.): use Latin (scientific) names		25
Correct pinning technique as shown in activity book		20
Specimen quality: has most body parts, not smashed or faded		15
Display quality: arrangement of insects, attractive display, viewable case		15
Bonus: judge's discretion based on overall effort level, accuracy, and creativity		10
Total		110

VTPP Virginia Tech Pesticide Programs

ENTOMOLOGY VIRGINIA TECH

Virginia Cooperative Extension
Virginia Tech • Virginia State University

Virginia Cooperative Extension is a partnership of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments. Its programs and employment are open to all, regardless of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, military status, or any other basis protected by law.

Pollinators:

- Lepidoptera (butterflies, moths)
- Hymenoptera (wasps, bees, ants)
- Coleoptera (beetles)
- Diptera (flies)

Decomposers:

- Hymenoptera (ants)
- Diptera (flies)
- Blattodea (cockroaches, termites)
- Coleoptera (beetles)
- Archaeognatha (bristletails)

Plant Feeders:

- Hemiptera (cicadas, stink bugs, leafhoppers, etc.)
- Coleoptera (beetles)
- Dermaptera (earwigs)
- Hymenoptera (sawflies, horntails, bees)
- Lepidoptera (butterflies, moths)
- Phasmatodea (walking sticks)
- Orthoptera (grasshoppers, crickets, katydids)

Urban Pests:

- Blattodea (cockroaches, termites)
- Hemiptera (bed bugs, stink bugs)
- Coleoptera (ladybird beetles)
- Siphonaptera (fleas)
- Hymenoptera (carpenter bees, hornets, ants, etc.)

Aquatic:

- Megaloptera (dobsonflies, alderflies)
- Plecoptera (stoneflies)
- Odonata (dragonflies, damselflies)
- Mecoptera (scorpionflies)
- Coleoptera (diving beetles)
- Trichoptera (caddisflies)

Medically Important:

- Diptera (mosquitoes)
- Siphonaptera (fleas)
- Psocodea (lice)
- Hymenoptera (wasps, bees, ants)

Predatory:

- Mantodea (praying mantis)
- Hymenoptera (parasitic wasps)
- Hemiptera (assassin & ambush bugs)
- Coleoptera (rove beetles, ladybird beetles, ground beetles, etc.)
- Odonata (dragonflies, damselflies)
- Dermaptera (earwigs)
- Neuroptera (lacewings, antlions)

Seasonal & Invasive Insects:

- Hemiptera (periodical cicadas, brown marmorated stink bugs, spotted lanternfly, etc.)
- Hymenoptera (honey bees, European hornet, fire ants, Asian needle ants, etc.)
- Coleoptera (Asian longhorn beetle, emerald ash borer, etc.)
- Lepidoptera (spongy moth, squash stem borer, etc.)

Insect Order Labels: *Place in bottom of box to group insect orders*

Archaeognatha	Orthoptera	Hymenoptera	
Zygentoma	Phasmatodea	Lepidoptera	
Ephemeroptera	Plecoptera	Mecoptera	
Odonata	Hemiptera	Megaloptera	
Blattodea	Psocodea	Neuroptera	
Dermaptera	Coleoptera	Siphonaptera	
Mantodea	Diptera	Trichoptera	

Collection Labels:
Top Tag: Location, Date, & Name of Collector
Bottom Tag: Insect Order & Common Name (or Family)

Ex.

(Top Tag)	(Bottom Tag)
Montgomery Co., VA May 15, 2021 John Doe	Hemiptera Green Stink Bug

(Top Tag)	(Bottom Tag)	(Top Tag)	(Bottom Tag)	(Top Tag)	(Bottom Tag)