

Marion Co. 4-H Coin Collection Project (Numismatics)

Grades K - 12

Choose any one of the three levels at which you feel ready to do a project. You do not have to start at Level 1. You may participate at Level 1 for only 3 years. There are no age requirements for any level.

Please complete the 4-H Collections Record Sheet

Recommendations: Arrange your coin collection in a neat manner. Coins should be displayed in a suitable holder similar to clear plastic types used for trading cards. This allows the coin to be viewed from both sides. Coins should be identified by date, mintmark and country if not made in the U.S. Due to the value of a coin collection, the collection should be checked out of the Arts and Crafts building after judging. Check the Marion County 4-H Fair webpage, in this site, to find out the day that coin collections will be judged.

Levels

Level 1 Beginning Collector: Exhibit one or more of the following; however more than one selection still counts as only one exhibit.

1. A set of U.S. coins from the year of your birth. This set includes: penny, nickel, dime, quarter and half dollar. This set should have the Philadelphia and Denver mints represented for each coin type.
2. A collection of at least twenty (20) U.S. coins of any denomination. Do not duplicate the year on the coin of the same denomination. A good collection might include five (5) pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters having different dates or twenty 20 pennies arranged in consecutive years.
3. A complete set of Washington quarter state mint series. A good collection would have both Philadelphia and Denver mints represented.
4. A one-page report for one of the following:
 - a.) Select any one U.S. coin and exhibit it in a protected viewing holder along with its history.
 - b.) Explain the grading system used to determine a coin's quality. A good report would show some pictures of fair, good, fine and uncirculated coins.

Level 2 Intermediate Collector: Exhibit one or more of the following; however more than one selection still counts as only one exhibit.

1. A collection of at least fifty (50) U.S. coins of any denomination. You may duplicate the year only when the mintmarks are different for that coin. (For example: two 1988 dimes, one made at Philadelphia and one at the Denver mint.)
2. A two-page report for one of the following:
 - a. How a coin is made from start to finish. You must use correct terms such as "planchet, obverse, die and relief".
 - b. History of the U.S. mint that was founded in 1792. You must include the origin of the basic coin types that were made and who proposed them.
3. Ten coins from around the world that represent at least three different countries with no denomination duplicated. Each coin must be labeled with its date, country of origin, and value. A good exhibit may include a world map identifying to country, etc.

Level 3 Advanced Collector: Exhibit one or more of the following; however more than one selection still counts as only one exhibit.

1. At least sixty U.S. coins of the same denomination. You may duplicate the year only when the mintmarks are different. A good collection would have a consecutive coin series. For example: pennies from 1970 to year 2000 with two or three mints representing each date.
2. Coins of the same denomination but in different conditions. A good exhibit would include an explanation of at least six graded conditions from “fair” through “un-circulated” and a proof coin.
3. Thirty coins from around the world that represent at least eight different countries with no denomination date duplicated (for example, two 1998 Mexican pesos would be unacceptable). Each coin must be labeled with country, date and value.
4. A complete series of coins. A series is all of the coins of a particular denomination, design, and type. The easiest series are the Susan B. Anthony or the Eisenhower dollars. The Sacagawea dollar does not qualify at this level.
5. A collection of ten or more coins depicting a theme (animals, flowers, birds, space, etc.)

References: Coins by Dr. Roderick P. Hughes: A “Fell’s Official Know-it-all Guide” (1999) Coin Collecting: A Beginner’s Guide to the World of Coins, by Kennet Bressett (1999) North American Coin & Prices: A Guide to U.S., Canadian and Mexican Coins, edited by David C. Harper (Published yearly)

Websites

[The U.S. Mint](#)

[American Numismatic Association](#)

[Coin World](#)

[Indiana State Numismatics Association](#)

[Indianapolis Coin Club](#)

Proof Sets

United States Mint

P. O. Box 382600

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