Insect Collection
CONSERVATION KIT

Kankakee County
**Soil and Water
Conservation District**

Did you know that invertebrates make up more than 97% of all animals on Earth? Despite this, we usually think of vertebrates like mammals, birds, and fish when we imagine the biodiversity in our world. In reality, the largest and most biodiverse group of organisms on this planet are insects! With over 900,000 described species (and counting!), insects are a critical part of our ecosystem.

Why are there *SO MANY* insect species? How can I tell a butterfly from a moth, or a fly from a bee? What roles do insects play in our ecosystems? There are so many questions to ask within the realm of entomology. Explore all of these topics an more with the Insect Collection Conservation Kit!

Equipment Included:

1. A small reference collection containing insects commonly found in Kankakee County.
2. 4 insect nets, pitfall traps, collection jars and containers, ethyl acetate, and a squeeze bottle for collecting insects
3. 12 student insect storage boxes for student collections.
4. Insect pins, pin holders, pinning blocks, versaboard spreading boards, forceps, and tracing paper for insect pinning.
5. Butterfly field guide.
6. Insect field guide.
7. Clipboards for on-the-go data collection.
8. Educational resource binder full of insect resources, activities, and more!
9. Plastic storage containers with lids.

With the Insect Collection Conservation Kit, your students will be able to:
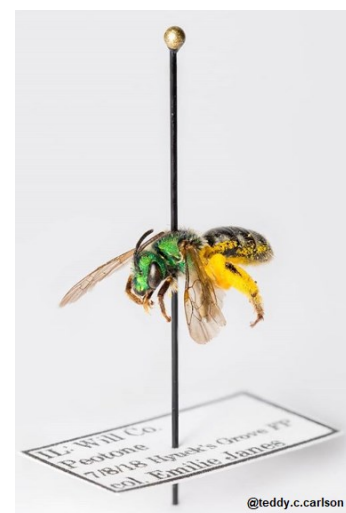
Identify native insects: Learn how to use field guides and dichotomous keys to identify major insect orders and common species.

Document local species: Permanently catalog our county's biodiversity to use as a reference and data source in the future. Participate in a BioBlitz!

Explore biology and ecology: insect diversity, adaptation, pollination, and more!

Discuss insects and conservation: threats to native species, habitat fragmentation, invasive species, insect pollinators, and conservation in agriculture

Learn about careers in entomology and conservation!

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