"Collecting" Hobbies

The key to a lifetime of collecting fun is to enjoy looking for and building a collection of items you love.





1. Building Your Collection

Before starting a collection, ask yourself the following questions. Write down the answers and discuss them with your family or other adult.

- Is the hobby fun?
- Can I afford it?
- Do I have the space for it?
- Is it something that will not harm the environment?

2. Share Your Collection with Others

One of the best parts about having a collection is sharing it with others. Arrange, display, or mount your collection so that you are able to show it to others.

3. Meet Other Collectors

Find out what clubs, organizations, Web sites, or magazines are out there for people with your hobby. If possible, meet and talk with other collectors, or exchange e-mails to discuss your collection. Be sure to follow the Online Safety Pledge you'll find on the "Just for Girls" section of the Girl Scouts Web site.

4. Be the Expert About Your Hobby

Part of the fun of a collecting hobby is being an expert about what you are collecting. Learn more about the items in your collection.



5. Organize a Hobby Fair

Get your collecting friends together and show off all of your collections at a hobby fair. Invite your fellow collectors to display their collections in small booths or stations in your school, in your backyard, anyplace!

6. Organize Your Hobby

Organize your collection, including the name or classification of each object. List when you acquired the object, how much it cost or where you found it, and something special about each item.

7. Go on a Treasure Hunt

Go on a hunt for pieces to add to your collection. Depending on your hobby, you could attend a flea market, street fair, or auction; take a walk on the beach; dig through your family's old letters; or go to an antique or collector's shop.

8. Collect for the Community

Sometimes collecting isn't just a hobby, it's a community service. There are many ways to help others by collecting. Collect clothes and donate them to a charity, feed the hungry by organizing a food drive and collecting canned goods, or keep your local park clean by collecting trash. These collections are not meant to be kept or put on display; they're more useful when given away.

9. Collecting Globally

Find out whether the items in your collection would be different if you lived someplace else. Do you have a shell collection? Would your shells be different in Mexico, for example, or in Indonesia? If possible, add to your collection with items from other countries.

10. Generation to Generation

Sometimes grandparents, parents, or aunts and uncles will hand down their collections. Some collections are in families for years and years. Perhaps your family has a tradition of collecting. Ask members of your family if they collect anything. If they do, what do they collect and how long have they been doing it? Did someone in the family hand the collection down to them? Offer to help carry on the tradition by contributing to the collection, or share with them the things you've learned about collecting.



