Educational Exhibits for Young Adults

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Biology 435: Entomology

Writing assignment-Educational Exhibits for Young Adults: Your assignment is to pick a topic related to entomology that you find interesting, and design a "hands-on" or "interactive" exhibit on the topic that might be used to educate elementary age children. You have several weeks to select an entomological topic that you find interesting, and write a succinct 1-2 page description of your idea for an exhibit. Your description should be designed as a brief proposal, similar to what you might submit to a board of trustees or museum director that might donate the money to fund your idea. Outline your idea as persuasively as possible, explaining why the public will find this exhibit interesting and how it will help educate them on basic principles of biology, ecology, evolution, conservation, etc. Include a list of materials and any preliminary sketches or diagrams that you think will help illustrate the project. Make every effort to keep the cost low (less than $25). This portion is due May 18 or earlier (note this is a different date than is listed on the syllabus). The final portion of the assignment will be the actual exhibit/display, which we will share with each other (and maybe other interested folks in the department) on the last day of class. These exhibits don't have to be fancy or expensive...the creativity will be in coming up with an inexpensive, entertaining idea. Thus, the amount of "writing" involved in the actual exhibit will likely be relatively small...just a few titles and headings on poster board, maybe a few paragraphs and diagrams to explain processes Below are a few ideas to get you started:

* A "honey-tasting station" where toothpicks can be dipped into clover, orange blossom, sourwood, etc. honey for tasting. Additional display material might be pinned bee specimens, honeycomb in a jar or in a hive drawer, bee keeping equipment, or diagrams explaining how beehives function.

* A living ant farm.

* Tape recordings of cricket mating calls, cicadas, and/or other insect noises and descriptions of how they are used.

* Samples of moth cocoons and the insects that make them.

* A collection of insect "homes"-galls, wasp nests, mud dauber pipes, caddis fly tubes, termite tunnels, etc.

* An explanation of how lightning bugs produce light.
* A display of insect jewelry, or insects in art, or insects in poetry, literature, film, etc.

* Insect cookery: Chocolate covered ants, Cricket-rice crispy treats, etc.