

Designed and Built by Students

We have received numerous questions and concerns about whether adults will feel compelled to build Arthropod specimen collections for their students, and the details of what is allowed by policy. The intent and practice of our "designed and built by students" policy is to let students have the experience. Please resist the temptation for perfection, or the need to win at all costs.

Our priorities:

1) **Your student should be safe.** There may be a few instances where a tool is required that is too advanced for your student to operate. Cutting a piece of wood might be a good example of this.

Even so, you should involve the student in the planning and design work, and confirmation that the item turned out as planned.

2) **Your student should do the work.** That doesn't mean you should stand back and let your student flounder. Coaches have an important role in teaching skills. Organize your work so you can demonstrate a skill, and then give your student the opportunity to practice. You might need a few extra bugs to pin to learn from.

It is not acceptable for you to do the same work as your student, in parallel, and then submit the coach's effort as the student's. For instance, if the student doesn't take as good of a photograph as the coach, it is not acceptable to substitute the coach's. Digital photography is almost costless, so let your student practice.