



4-H SCRAPBOOKING



Scrapbooking is a fun way to share special moments in your life with family members and friends. Your pictures, captions, and journal entries tell a story that captures those special moments and memories. Scrapbooks can last a lifetime if done with care and planning. Experienced scrapbookers will tell you, the best way to get started is to organize your photos and keepsakes and purchase the supplies you will need.



Begin by organizing your photographs. There are several ways you can do this. You can organize pictures by year — for example, your first year of playing a sport. Or you can organize them by events or themes, such as your family vacation, pets, friends, grandparents, clubs, hobbies, etc. If you are using printed photos, you may want to store them in a photo storage box by topic or year. That will keep the photos organized and also protect them from damage. Digital photos can be saved into folders on your computer or on any number of photo sharing websites.



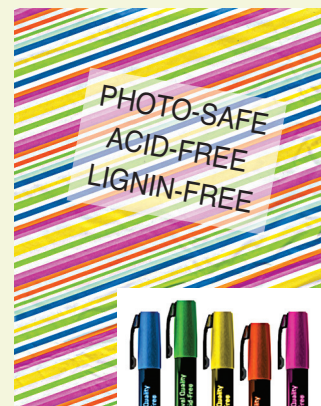
Organize your keepsakes. Organize tickets, brochures, postcards, maps, newspaper articles, or other keepsakes that you saved from events or trips. Use file folders or large envelopes to hold items and label them so they are ready to add to your album along with the matching photos.





Purchase supplies you will need. Some suggested supplies are listed below. As you purchase supplies, you may also want to pick up items to keep the supplies organized, such as a storage container for paper, sealable plastic bags to hold small items, large envelopes for keepsakes, and photo storage boxes.

- When selecting an album, think about how the album will be used. Do you need a large album that will include many pictures over a long period of time? Or a smaller album that is better for highlighting an event or special occasion? Select an album with pages that are easy to remove, replace, and add to.
- Any paper in your album should be photo-safe, acid-free, and lignin-free. Acid makes photos deteriorate and fade. Lignin, which occurs naturally in trees, causes newspaper to turn yellow and become brittle over time. Most paper products on the market today are photo-safe and acid-free, but check the label to be sure.
- Page protectors are recommended to protect against spills, fingerprints, dust, and other things that can damage your photos and album pages.
- Use photo-safe pens for journaling or captions. Entries allow you to share special thoughts, memories, or stories that aren't obvious in the pictures.
- Select photo adhesives that are photo-safe and acid-free. Don't use generic school glue or tape in your album.
- Select a trimmer that has a safety feature to protect against accidentally cutting your fingers and includes a guide to hold pictures or paper in place when trimming. A variety of shape cutters are available if you plan to add accents to pictures or pages.
- Purchase a pair of scissors that fit your hand and are easy to use. Only use them for your scrapbooking projects.
- To give photos a finished look, purchase a corner rounder to use on cropped photos and photo mats.



Select the best pictures to include in your album. You probably take lots of pictures, but you won't put all of them in albums. After you organize your pictures, look through them and select the best ones. Select pictures that inspire emotion or share a great story.



Plan the page layout. Before you start work on your album, plan ahead. You can find ideas you may want to use in books, online, and in scrapbooking magazines. If someone is teaching you, look through his/her albums to see how layouts are organized. In larger albums, pictures are usually arranged on a two-page layout. Each page usually includes one or two pictures. Choose one main photo that will draw the viewer's attention. Leave enough room to journal, include a title or caption, or add borders that accent the colors in the pictures.



Crop or trim pictures as needed. Critique each picture you plan to include in your album. What is the focal point of the picture? Does it include unnecessary clutter? Pictures can be trimmed or cropped to remove unwanted backgrounds or unnecessary space. Use a good trimmer to make straight lines.

Before you begin trimming, practice on some pictures you don't plan to use. While cutting, hold your picture firmly in place against the edge of the trimmer so it doesn't move.



Prepare keepsakes from special events. If you want to include keepsakes such as, ticket stubs, programs, or award certificates, in your scrapbook, they may contain acid so use a spray neutralizer. The spray coats the item and neutralizes acid levels. For newspaper articles, trim the article and scan it into your computer. Then use acid-free paper to print a copy of the article. For articles that are posted in web-based newspapers, print the articles directly from the website using acid-free paper.



Write a simple story about the pictures you have included. Journaling your stories or memories makes your scrapbook unique. Include a few sentences of journaling on every page — express your thoughts, tell a story, add a short description, or insert a poem or lyrics to a song. You can add journaling in your own handwriting using a photo-safe and acid-free pen. Or use software programs to add journaling to your digital scrapbook pages. If you print your journals, remember to use acid-free and lignin-free paper.



Use decorations to add interest and creativity. Start slow and use minimal supplies in the beginning. You can always add more at a later time. Add titles or captions using a scrapbooking pen or colored pencils that complement the colors in your pictures.



Attach the pictures and other pieces to the page. After selecting and trimming your photos, arrange them on an album page along with the other elements you have selected. When the layout is complete, use an adhesive to attach the pictures and other pieces to your pages.

Sample Scrapbook Layout



Page title or caption — words or simple phrase about the theme of the page

Main photo — one or two of your best photos

Journaling — your thoughts, stories, or descriptions make your album unique

Borders — add visual interest

Mat — a layer under a photo creates a border to frame the picture

Page accents — decorations that add creativity to your album

Photo corners — decorative elements that make the photos stand out

Finding Helpful Resources for Your Project



People. One of the best ways to learn scrapbooking techniques is to work with someone who loves to scrapbook. Ask them to teach and guide you as you work on your album. Some people are very hands on and want to create scrapbooks using paper and tools. Others like to create electronic scrapbooks online and print them when finished. Decide which style appeals to you so you can find the right person to help you with your project.



Stores. Craft and hobby stores frequently offer classes on scrapbooking for beginner to advanced learners. They also stock isles full of scrapbooking supplies and tools. It is best to decide on a budget and have a pre-planned shopping list before you start browsing the isles.



Publications. There are a variety of books and magazines dedicated to scrapbooking instructions, tips, sample layouts, and techniques. Check your local library for resources that you can borrow or review. Scrapbooking websites are quite popular and many offer free resources and information. To start a search for scrapbooking websites, enter specific search words for resources that you need such as, scrapbooking for beginners, simple scrapbooking layouts, or scrapbooking supplies. Just remember that many of the .com websites are designed to sell merchandise.



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