

# SCRAPBOOKING

## FUN FOR THE WHOLE CLUB!

A scrapbook is a great way to preserve club activities and special events held throughout the year. It becomes a physical record of the many long hours the club puts into events, projects, and social activities as well as various club, zone, district, and international events!

Scrapbooks can also become a way to get people interested in your club. People can look through the pages and say, "Hey, I think I would like to do this activity!" or "Boy, I would really like to help with this project!" or even "Wow! This group looks like they really know how to have fun!"

Scrapbooks should reflect the personality of your individual club and its members, but it should also be fun and interesting. No one wants to look at a bunch of pictures glued down on a page and 3 years later everyone is going "Hey, who was that guy?" or "Who won the \_\_\_ contest that year?"

The most important aspect of the book should be the pictures and the journaling or writing that is done to preserve the memories and events.

### • BASIC SUPPLIES

There are many scrapbook supplies out on the market today. What you get can be very simple or very elaborate: it depends on your budget! You don't have to spend hundreds of dollars to make it look attractive. Be wise and buy smart. Get what you will need and use. Watch for ½ price sales at places like Hobby Lobby.

#### **Basic supplies include the following:**

Official Optimist Scrapbook with 3 packages of filler pages

Paper – acid and lignin free

Various bright colors

Patterned paper

Seasonal or activity related papers

Photo Trimmer

Scissors

Decorative edges are nice touches

Available at Wal-Mart and Hobby Lobby in a variety of styles

Pens – acid and lignin free, permanent only

Adhesives – acid and lignin free

I recommend Photo Stickers

(Available at Wal-Mart - they are pre-cut and ready to go!)

Letters – acid / lignin free

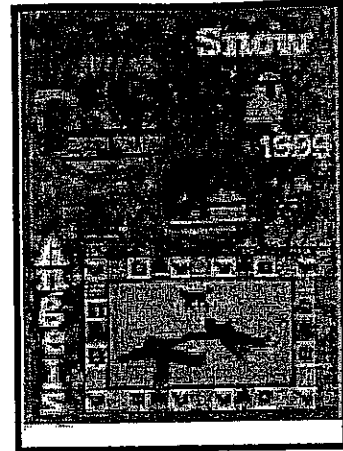
Self-sticking

Various shapes, sizes, and colors

Some decorations – acid or lignin free  
Die-cuts  
Stickers

**OPTIONAL ITEMS:**

Circular Cutter  
Oval Cutter  
Corner Cutters  
Shaped Paper Punches  
Shaped templates



Once you've got the basics and decide you want to do more elaborate things, you can move on to the more specialized equipment such as the items mentioned above.

Above layout made with Circular Cutter.

## • GETTING STARTED

Making a scrapbook can sometimes feel like an overwhelming project. It shouldn't! You may want to use a theme throughout the book. For example, the year Gary Hanson was President of the Grain Valley Optimists, his wife (a.k.a. Scrapbook Chairman) used the theme of a busy bee and flowers throughout the entire book. Each page had a small flower in the upper left or right hand corner (depending which side of the book it was on) and in the center of each flower was the page number. There was a bee floating around the page somewhere. It was wonderful and was carried throughout the entire book.

Another idea is a theme of "Smooth Sailing" and use boats throughout the book. You could use the International Theme and Logo. You don't have to use a theme at all. It is your book and you can make it unique for your club.

Here are a few simple steps to get you started:

- 1) JUST PREPARE ONE EVENT OR ACTIVITY AT A TIME. To save time, just organize for one section or event for the book at a time. For instance, if you are starting with a youth event like the Oratorical Contest, just gather and organize all of your photos and other items for that activity. Try to complete your pages as soon as possible after the event to keep everything fresh in your mind.
- 2) GATHER AND ORGANIZE YOUR PHOTOS AND OTHER ITEMS. This may be the most time consuming part of your project. Scrapbooks are not for every picture you've ever taken (that's what albums are for). Search through the photos and pick the best and cutest pictures to use. You'll know them when you see them. If you don't have the time to get all of your photos in order, just make piles of pictures: Photos you want to use and those you don't. Then just keep narrowing down until

you have the ones you plan on using. Keep some of the "maybes" around in case you need some as filler pictures.

Remember to also include small items such as a ticket or sample entry form or other item that might make the page more interesting. A program from an event would be nice as well. Here is a suggested list of other items that you could include:

- Baby (or adult) bracelet from the hospital
- Crib Card from the hospital
- Pictures from the hospital
- Special restaurant menus
- Invitations
- Cards and letters
- Postcards
- Travel brochures and souvenirs
- Maps
- Certificates of achievement
- Diplomas
- Resumes
- Awards from school or employers
- Report cards
- Sports certificates
- Ribbons for sports or awards
- Newspaper articles
- Activity awards or memorabilia
- Tickets and/or programs from concerts or other special entertainment
- Pit passes from races
- Souvenir photos from vacations

3) NEXT, START LAYING OUT PAGES. I usually do the "intro" page as a page on the right side of the book. Then I do at least two pages that are right next to each other. Before I actually glue anything, I move everything around, try different colored paper as backgrounds, find appropriate stickers, etc. to complement the page. It is also a way to lay out the entire spread before making anything permanent. You might decide you need only one page. Some events and activities may take 5 pages. Don't be afraid to use space, but likewise don't be afraid to consolidate if needed.

You will be able to get a feel for when a "section" is complete and can probably be set. If you feel you have no creative ability at all, there are hundreds of layout ideas on the Internet. One example is Layout Ideas at <http://capitolway.com/annies/> for ideas and links to other sites. Everyone's style is different, so find one that you like and begin.

Once you have a good idea, you are ready to begin "croppin' and choppin' and gloppin'" or cutting and pasting, as it is more commonly known.

## • HINTS AND TIPS FOR LAYOUTS

Everyone has their own style of laying out pages. Some people like to make the photos the most visible part of the page without a lot of clutter. Some people like to go all out and add a lot of "extras" to a page. Regardless of your particular style, here are some tips that can be applied to any book as well as some tips that you may or may not want to implement in your scrapbook.

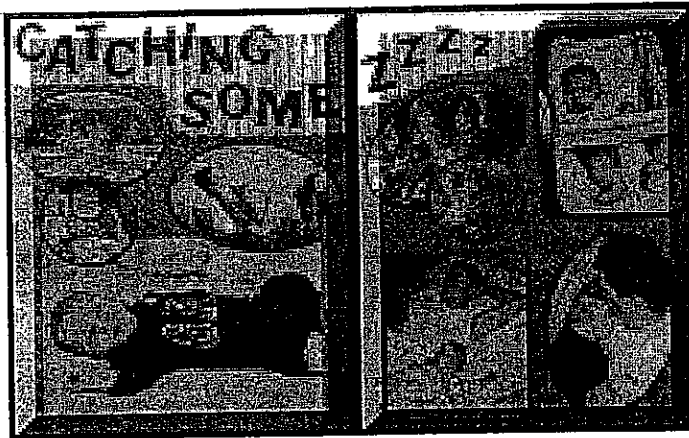
### 1) BASIC RULES:

- Don't be afraid to cut a photo. If you are worried, make a copy and cut the copy first.
- Use only the part of the photo that you need. If there are things in the background that you don't need, cut them out!
- Trim photos into fun shapes or use decorative edged scissors. It's okay if photos are **NOT** squares or rectangles! (See photo to the right.)
- Never cut a Polaroid picture! Better yet, **NEVER** use a Polaroid unless you **ABSOLUTELY** have to!
- Do not cut up antique or irreplaceable photos - make a color copy and then cut the copy.
- Avoid using ballpoint pens. They can leave imprints and damage photos.
- All materials should be acid-free, lignin free and PVC free including paper, pens, die-cuts and stickers. This will protect your photos from yellowing, aging and cracking.
- Do not use construction paper or anything else not labeled acid-free.



### 2) CROPPING:

When cropping (cutting a picture down in size) try to keep the main object centered. Don't cut too much at first. It's much easier to trim a few times than to cut and then decide you've cut too much. Try to keep the photo as big as possible. You can even enlarge a photo to a 5x7 and then cut it to a 4x6 just so the people in the picture are what stand out most.



### 3) HIDING UNWANTED OBJECTS:

Sometimes there is something in the background of a photo that you may not want to show, but you don't always have to cut it out. You can cover unwanted objects with die-cuts, stickers or the corner of another photo.

#### 4) JOURNALING:

This is where you explain the photo or event. There are a few ways to do this. You can use an acid-free pen and write it directly on your page or write on another scrap of paper and attach it near the photo. Both of these depend on nice handwriting. You may want to take advantage of all the neat fonts on the computer and print directly on the page before putting any pictures on. Set up the page and then print it on a scratch piece of paper, make sure the photos fit and then print it on the paper you're using for your page. It's nice because you can choose different fonts for different subjects and always keep the writing consistent. You can also print it on another sheet of paper and then cut the paper to fit the space or area.

Be sure to include the names of people who worked on the committees to get things organized for this event, include the names of the kids who won the contests, include names of speakers, etc.

#### 5) LAYERING (TO MAKE FRAMES):

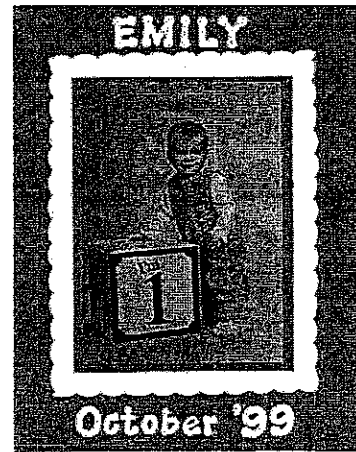
This can be done to make a picture really stand out and look good. It is usually done with a combination of solid and patterned papers. You can also cut one of the layers with patterned scissors to create a more sophisticated look.



#### 6) STORIES, BUT NO

PICTURES? Every once in a while you will find that a memorable event has occurred without any pictures being taken (or they didn't

turn out, or nobody was smiling, etc.). That doesn't mean you have to skip over the event in your book. Die-cuts work well to add animation to a page. Write (or type) up the story or details about an event on a page and then add a few appropriate die-cuts. You can also use clip art from your computer.



#### 7) MOVING ITEMS AROUND

Don't be afraid to move items around and cut out "practice" pictures and other items to be sure you have the layout you want. The pictures should tell the story about the event. When you are finally ready, then attached the Photo Stickers and glue down to the page.

#### 8) USE BRIGHT COLORS

Bright colors are happier and more positive than somber tones. That doesn't mean you can't use black at Halloween or brown for fall activities. It means put bright orange with these pages or bright yellow. Make the pages stand out.