

# Writing a 4-H Idea Starter

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4-H Youth Development



Please prepare your narrative in a style and language that is understandable for a younger reader. New submissions receive immediate confirmation of receipt and an explanation of the approval process that follows. Notification of approval/rejection/modification will be received within three months.



- 1 **Title:** Keep it specific to the topic.
- 2 **Author(s):** Provide full name(s) and expertise with the topic.
- 3 **Background:** 1,500 words maximum. The first paragraph introduces the topic. Typically, the remaining paragraphs address at least four specific areas of interest. (Youth choose to do activities related to at least three.)
- 4 **Areas of Interest:** Addressed in the project narrative. Each represents a particular subset of activities for the member to complete. Word them so they complete the sentence, "My first area of interest is to ..."
- 5 **Things to Do:** Simply stated activities that provide meaningful examples for members. Consider activities that bring members together with adults, develop skills and increase knowledge. Create at least four activities per area. Use action words such as *plan, complete, build, produce, purchase, sell, interview*, etc., to begin each sentence. Avoid the use of possessive pronouns.
- 6 **Related Resources:** Identify websites that provide expert advice and additional information related to the topic.
- 7 **Updates:** Authors are expected to update their Idea Starter every five years. Web addresses must be updated every two years. Forms not revised after five years are subject to removal. All submitted Idea Starters become the immediate property of Ohio State University Extension and are subject to review and editing.

*Thank you for sharing your expertise with Ohio youth!*

[ohio4h.org/selfdetermined](http://ohio4h.org/selfdetermined)



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