



Self-Determined Project Guide



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Project Background

A 4-H Self-Determined Project is an opportunity for members to go beyond the scope of their current project or to explore a topic that is unavailable as a project book. Self-Determined Projects on the same topic may be repeated if new areas of interest, learning experiences and leadership/citizenship activities are selected.

Not sure what topic to explore? You can get some great ideas by reviewing the Idea Starters available online at ohio4h.org/selfdetermined.

Project Guidelines

1. Identify a possible topic for your project.
2. Complete the Planning Your Adventure section (Steps 1 through 3) of this guide by discussing and researching your topic, by planning and completing at least two learning experiences, and by planning and completing at least two leadership/citizenship activities.
3. Complete the Conducting Your Adventure section by identifying and completing three areas of interest and three activities within each area.
4. Complete the Reporting Your Adventure section of this guide.

Name: _____

Age (as of January 1 of the current year): _____ **County:** _____

Club name: _____ **Advisor:** _____

Topic you've chosen to explore: _____

PLANNING YOUR ADVENTURE

Step 1. Let's Begin (Check off what you plan to do.)

- Discuss your ideas with family, friends, and of course, your project helper.
- Check books about your topic at the library before you begin.
- Visit websites that provide more information about your topic.
- Check your county's project guidelines (if any) for additional requirements, especially if you choose to participate in county project judging or prepare an exhibit for the fair.

Step 2. Learning Experiences

Choose at least two learning experiences from the list below (or create your own). Write them in the table below. Record your progress by asking your project helper to initial next to the date each one is completed. You may add to or change these activities at any time.

- Attend a clinic, workshop, demonstration or speech on a topic related to your project.
- Prepare a public service announcement for school, radio, television or the Internet on a topic related to your project.
- Help organize a club activity on this project.
- Prepare your own demonstration, illustrated talk or exhibit.
- Participate in county judging.

Learning Experience	Date Completed	Project Helper Initials
<i>(Example) Demonstration: Showed different sizes of model railroad cars to club members.</i>	7/15/YR	BH

Step 3. Leadership/Citizenship Activities

Choose at least two leadership/citizenship activities from the list below (or create your own). Write them in the table below. Record your progress by asking your project helper to initial next to the date each one is completed. You may add to or change these activities at any time.

- Assist in setting up and/or cleaning up for a show or event.
- Help someone with his or her project.
- Help organize a workshop or show in your community.
- Encourage a friend to join 4-H and take a project.
- Teach someone something that you learned about 4-H or about your topic.
- Invite someone to talk to your club about your topic.
- Give advice to a member who is preparing a project for the fair.
- Prepare and exhibit a display promoting your topic or 4-H.

Leadership/Citizenship Activity	Date Completed	Project Helper Initials
<i>(Example) Helped younger members set up a model railroad.</i>	<i>8/11/YR</i>	<i>BH</i>

CONDUCTING YOUR ADVENTURE

Every self-determined project is broken down into areas of interest. These are the specific things you wish to explore during your project adventure. In the space provided on the next page, identify at least three areas of interest with at least three activities per area.

If you are using an Idea Starter, you will find suggested areas of interest and things to do there.

Ask your project helper to initial next to the date each one is completed.

(Example) My first area of interest is to plan a layout.

Activity 1: *Locate a reference book on model railroading to use during the project.*

Activity 2: *Create a track plan for a model railroad.*

Activity 3: *Identify a knowledgeable person who is willing to help.*

Activity 4: *Talk with parents about where to put a layout.*

Date completed: *4/18/YR* **Project helper initials:** *BH*

CONDUCTING YOUR ADVENTURE (CONTINUED)

My first area of interest is to _____

Activity 1: _____

Activity 2: _____

Activity 3: _____

Activity 4: _____

Date completed: _____ Project helper initials: _____

My second area of interest is to _____

Activity 1: _____

Activity 2: _____

Activity 3: _____

Activity 4: _____

Date completed: _____ Project helper initials: _____

My third area of interest is to _____

Activity 1: _____

Activity 2: _____

Activity 3: _____

Activity 4: _____

Date completed: _____ Project helper initials: _____

My fourth area of interest is to _____

Activity 1: _____

Activity 2: _____

Activity 3: _____

Activity 4: _____

Date completed: _____ Project helper initials: _____

REPORTING YOUR ADVENTURE

In the space below, summarize what you did and learned. Then arrange for a project review with your project helper, who should review this completed project guide with you. Such evaluations help you assess what you learned and how you grew as a 4-H member. Members who take part in this level of evaluation may receive special membership and project achievement awards such as ribbons, pins and certificates.

In addition, you may want to take part in county project judging. This level of evaluation determines how well you did on your project by assigning a project grade. You may also want to represent your county at the Ohio State Fair. For more information, contact your local Ohio State University Extension office or visit our website at ohio4h.org/selfdetermined.

Your Summary

ohio4h.org/selfdetermined



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