

# OHIO 4-H MASTER PROJECTS



4-H 378M

## Leadership Master

By Kathryn C. Pepple, Ph.D., Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development, Ohio State University Extension

This Leadership Master project is for teens who want leadership development experiences different from the opportunities provided through other 4-H leadership projects. Members who complete this project should have enough previous leadership experience to be able to plan and complete this advanced-level project on their own with minimal supervision or assistance.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

AGE (as of January 1 of the current year): \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADVISOR: \_\_\_\_\_



**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



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

CFAES provides research and related educational programs to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis. For more information: [go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity](http://go.osu.edu/cfaesdiversity).

## Project Guidelines

---

1. Plan, do, and evaluate at least one major leadership experience. What you do should be different from what you can do in other 4-H projects, and be different and more advanced than other leadership experiences you may have had previously.
2. Take part in at least two learning experiences, as outlined and planned in section 2.
3. Take part in at least two citizenship service activities, as outlined and planned in section 3.
4. Explore career opportunities in which you might apply or use what you learn by completing this project, as outlined in section 4.
5. Keep records of what you do, when you do it, how much you spend, and what you learn as you complete the project.
6. If possible, have someone take pictures of you working on your project at different stages as you progress from the beginning through completion, and attach copies of the photos in section 6 or in a separate project scrapbook.
7. Take part in a judging activity to evaluate the results of your project with someone else. The judging activity could be a simple discussion with your local 4-H advisor about what you did particularly well with your project and what you might like to do better next time, or it could be a more complex activity such as participating in your county's 4-H leadership judging to see how the results of your work compare with those of other teens enrolled in the Leadership Master project.

## Section 1: Planning What to Do and Doing What You Plan

---

To complete this project, you should plan, do, and evaluate at least one major leadership experience. What you do should be different from what you can do in other 4-H projects and more advanced than your previous leadership experiences. Here are a few examples of the many things you can do for your Leadership Master project:

- Provide leadership for planning, conducting, and evaluating a “Kindness Counts” campaign in a local middle school or in the community. Involve other people to plan and conduct activities that highlight kindness. Identify problem behaviors that need to be eliminated (bullying, gossiping, back-talking, whining, putting others down, fighting, etc.), provide leadership in planning and implementing strategies for reducing the frequency and severity of the problems. Evaluate your success.
- Provide leadership for a group doing 4-H promotional activities during Ohio 4-H Week or National 4-H Week. Work to place 4-H displays in downtown store windows and in the library; do awareness team visits to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes; recruit new 4-H members and introduce them to 4-H advisors whose clubs they could join; provide “I Got My Start in 4-H” display signs for local business owners who are former 4-H members; conduct interviews with television, radio, and newspaper reporters about your 4-H experiences and why other kids should join.
- Provide leadership for part of a candidate’s election campaign. For example, work as a part of the candidate’s campaign committee to compile a list of all new first-time voters in your precinct and contact them to ask for their vote. Or, organize “labeling parties” to apply address labels and stamps on campaign literature. You also could be responsible for putting up and removing political signs in your township or voting precinct.
- Attend all the public meetings held by elected officials and community boards in your community, town, or county for at least one month—school board meetings, township trustees meetings, city council meetings, commissioner meetings, zoning board hearings, fair board meetings, etc. Give reports and updates at your 4-H club meetings or to other groups about what

you observed and discuss how what was being discussed matters to today's youth.

- Prepare a motivational presentation or entertaining speech on a topic that is important to you, and give variations of it to several different types of groups who might be interested in your message. For example, Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis

Clubs, PTA groups, Veterans' Groups and local professional associations are often in need of speakers to give 10-minute to 20-minute attention-grabbing presentations at their meetings. Visit with leaders of each group after your presentation to get their evaluation of your presentation and their suggestions for improvement.

These are just a few "starting place" ideas. The whole notion of a master project is to build on your knowledge and experience and decide for yourself what you want to do. Tailor one of these leadership experience suggestions to your situation, or think of an experience on your own. Just make sure what you plan is different from what you can do in other projects and that it suits your and your family's needs and interests. This project may be completed or repeated over several years, as long as new skills are developed each year, and as long as additional sources and activities are used. Be sure to enroll in 4-H and register your project with your Extension office each year.

Before deciding for sure what you want to do or make for your project, complete the following:

- Discuss your ideas with family, friends, and your project helper.
- Talk with someone who has done something similar to what you are planning, and ask for tips and advice.
- Check books about your topic from the library before you begin.
- Visit websites that provide more information about what you plan to do.
- 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.

## My Advanced Leadership Project Plan

Use this table to outline your goals (what you want to do in your project), the specific steps you need to take to accomplish those goals, and when you plan to do them.

Goals	Objectives	Dates

## Section 2: Project Learning Experiences

---

Learning experiences are organized programs or events in which you learn with other people about things related to your project, beyond what you would by yourself. 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 when 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.
- Attend a county, area, statewide, or national 4-H officers and advisors conference and participate in sessions related to teen leadership.
- Take part in a 4-H camp counselor training and discuss with your project helper the leadership skills needed to be a counselor.
- Take part in a tour of your county courthouse and administrative offices to meet your elected officials and visit with them about their work.
- Prepare your own demonstration, illustrated talk, or exhibit.
- Participate in county judging.

Learning Experiences (include location)	Date Completed	Project Helper Initials

## Section 3: Citizenship Activities

Citizenship provide opportunities for 4-H teens to live the 4-H pledge—by using their heads, hearts, hands, and health to think clearly, promote loyalty, provide service, and live better to improve their clubs, communities, country, and world. Choose **at least two** 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 when each one is completed. You may add to or change these activities at any time.

- Help organize a service project in your community. For example, visit a children’s services director, food pantry director, or social worker in your area about things 4-H members might do to help their clients, and then and organize a 4-H service project to address the identified needs.
- Prepare a public service announcement for school radio, television, or the Internet on a topic related to your project.
- Write to a county commissioner, state legislator or state senator, congressional representative, or U.S. senator about a current issue.
- Volunteer to paint large stenciled house numbers on street curbs in your neighborhood so that emergency personnel can easily locate homes.
- Take bouquets of 4-H helium balloons to a nursing home in your community, and visit with residents about their lives and what you hope to do with yours.
- Attend a local township trustees meeting or county commissioners meeting, and tell them about you and your club’s service projects.
- Organize a Flag Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, or Veterans’ Day 4-H service project such as recruiting other 4-H clubs to march in a community parade, or raising funds and purchasing flagpoles and flags for community parks.
- Organize a group of your friends and volunteer to clean up the outside of an elderly neighbor’s home, mow the lawn, wash the windows, etc.
- Prepare an illustrated talk, speech, or skit related to your project, and present it for your 4-H club or at the county or area 4-H speaking contest.
- Help younger 4-H members plan and complete their 4-H club leadership/citizenship projects.
- Assist in setting up for and cleaning up after a club, county, or area 4-H leadership clinic or another 4-H event.

Citizenship Activities	Date and Locations of Activities I Completed

## Section 4: Explore Career Opportunities

One benefit of completing 4-H projects is that they give you a chance to think about and explore potential career opportunities. Many former 4-H teens use the skills and abilities developed in 4-H leadership projects in their careers. Some have successful careers in careers directly related to leadership such as being elected to public office, serving as the chief executive officer or vice president of a business or association, or becoming a minister or fire captain. Even if you do not pursue a position of leadership in your career, you will use your 4-H

leadership experience throughout life. It will serve you well whether speaking at a PTA meeting, serving on a jury, or volunteering for a committee.

Talk with a parent, project helper, or friend and brainstorm a list in the table below of at least three careers in which you could apply what you learn through this project. In the middle column, list the name of someone you know who could tell you more about that career. Select *one* of the people listed to interview them about their field and how to succeed in it. Summarize what you learned in the space below.

Leadership Career/Job Title	Person you could visit with who knows about the career	Date you visited ONE of these people about the career

**What I Learned:**

## Section 5: Record Keeping

---

Keep records of what you do, when you do it, how much you spend, and what you learn as you complete the project. Summarize your records in the table below. Add additional pages if needed.

Date	What I Did	Cost	What I Learned



## Section 6: Project Photos

---

Use this page to attach photos of you working on your project at different stages. Add additional pages if needed, or keep your photos and project records in a separate project scrapbook.

## Section 7: Evaluating Your Results

---

Take part in a judging activity to evaluate the results of your project with someone else. The judging activity could be a simple discussion with your local 4-H advisor about what you did particularly well with your project and what you might like to do better next time, or a more complex activity such as participating in your county's 4-H leadership judging to see how the results of your work compare with those of other members enrolled in the Leadership Master project. To prepare for judging, evaluate what you did for your project using by answering these questions:

1. Describe what you did for this project.

2. What led to this decision?

3. What did you do especially well in your project? What are the best parts of your project?

4. If you could improve anything about your project, what would it be? What will you do differently next time you attempt to make something like what you made in your project?

**Date Judging Activity Completed:** \_\_\_\_\_

Copyright © 2015, The Ohio State University

Ohio State University Extension embraces human diversity and is committed to ensuring that all research and related educational programs are available to clientele on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. This statement is in accordance with United States Civil Rights Laws and the USDA.

*Keith L. Smith, Associate Vice President for Agricultural Administration; Associate Dean, College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; Director, Ohio State University Extension; and Gist Chair in Extension Education and Leadership.*

For Deaf and Hard of Hearing, please contact Ohio State University Extension using your preferred communication (e-mail, relay services, or video relay services). Phone 1-800-750-0750 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. EST Monday through Friday. Inform the operator to dial 614-292-6181.