

Making the Best 4-H Clubs Better

Intended Audience

- 4-H club members
- 4-H parents

Lesson Objectives

Club members and parents will:

- Learn about their own personal interest areas.
- Practice finding information in the project family guide.
- Select the best project based on age, interest and skill level.

Time: 20 minutes

Equipment and supplies

- Pencils
- Handouts:
 - “Family Guide Scavenger Hunt” and key
 - “Pick-A-Project” and results
 - Ohio 4-H Family Guide
- Small prizes or candies (optional)
- Alternative props for the Family Guide Scavenger Hunt (alternative activity)

Do ahead

- Review lesson
- Gather equipment and supplies
- Copy handouts, one per member
- Obtain small prizes for Family Guide Scavenger Hunt (optional)

Picking the Perfect Project!

BACKGROUND

Welcome to 4-H. You may be a bit overwhelmed with all of the 4-H projects to choose from but don't worry, this lesson will help your 4-H members and parents select the best projects for their interest areas. In 4-H, youth have the opportunity to select from over 180 projects that provide hands-on learning experiences, and each project is designed to help them discover potential career opportunities. As members explore their projects they will learn more than just the subject matter; they will learn “life” skills, too! Each project guides the learner through self-discovery, communication, problem solving and decision making. Members are encouraged to work with others and to demonstrate their knowledge by sharing their project outcomes with adult or other club members.

WHAT TO DO

Activity: Family Guide Scavenger Hunt

The “Ohio 4-H Family Guide” is a great resource that is often overlooked by 4-H members and parents. The activity “Family Guide Scavenger Hunt” will help members and parents find important information and sections of the guide. Start by giving each member a current “Ohio 4-H Family Guide” and the handout, “Family Guide Scavenger Hunt.” Members may work individually or in groups of parent/child or fellow members to find the answers to the questions. (Note: Younger members may be paired with older members or adult helpers). Once all the answers have been found, share the answers in group discussion. (Perhaps give small prizes or candies to groups as they answer.)

Alternative to the Handout: You may also use small objects, pictures or cut out questions which represent portions of the family guide. For example, a small plastic dairy cow could represent the Dairy Cattle project section, or a bobbin of thread could represent the Clothing and Textiles section. Have each person draw or select one object and then search the guide to find how it relates. Share answers.



Sources

University of Arkansas Division
of Agriculture Cooperative
Extension Youth Development
Darlene Z. Millard, PhD.
Assistant Director. *4-H
Volunteer Leaders Series*
<http://www.uaex.edu>

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Activity: Pick-A-Project

Picking a project can be hard; there are just so many choices! The Pick-A-Project worksheet will help members narrow down their interest areas by ranking their favorite subjects. To begin give everyone the handout "Pick-A-Project" and a pencil. Give members time to read over the handout and make their selections. Once everyone has had time to circle the items that sound interesting, help them count the number of each letter circled and fill in the results section of the handout. When everyone has their results ranked highest letter to lowest, hand out the "results answer key" which will guide them to a section of the "Ohio 4-H Family Guide" that they have ranked as most interesting. Please note some children may have equal interest in two or more sections. Remind them to limit project choices to only those they can get done within the given project year and remind them they can take additional projects next year.

TALK IT OVER**Reflect:**

- Have you selected a project you like?
- Will I learn something new by doing this project?
- Is your project age-appropriate?
- Can your project be completed by judging time?
- How much money will your project require?
- How much space will your project need?
- What equipment will be needed for your project?
- Will you need adult support? If so is there an available adult with the skills you may require?
- Where might you find resources to help with your project?
- Will this project allow you time to take other projects?

Apply:

- 4-H members should select their project(s) and purchase their project book(s)