Picking the Perfect Project!

BACKGROUND
Wow! 4-H offers over 200 projects! Yes, we know that trying to select a project can be overwhelming as a new member, or even as a returning member, don’t worry, this lesson can help your 4-H members (and parents) select the perfect project to explore their personal interests. Every 4-H project provides hands-on learning experiences, is designed to help the member discover potential career opportunities and explore more than just the basic subject matter. Each project book is designed to guide 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 with an adult project helper and their club members.

WHAT TO DO
Activity: Family Guide Scavenger Hunt
The Ohio 4-H Family Guide is a great resource for 4-H members and parents. This activity will help members and parents learn to use this resource to find important information and sections of the guide. Start by asking each family to download the current Ohio Family Guide at https://ohio4h.org/familyguide. Using the attached “Family Guide Scavenger Hunt” handout, read each question and allow time for everyone to find that section of the guide. Share the answers in a group discussion.

Alternative to the Handout: You may also use small objects, pictures or cut out questions to represent portions of the Family Guide. For example, a small plastic dairy cow may represent the Dairy Cattle project sections. You could ask what page would I find projects to do with my dairy cow? Hold up a bobbin of thread and ask, what project could I take the I might need this object for? (Clothing and Textiles section).
Challenge each member to find something in their house that could relate to a section of the Family Guide. Allow time to share their objects and let others answer.
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 subject areas. To begin, have each member get their “Pick-A-Project” worksheet and a pencil. Allow members time to read over the handout and make their selections. Once everyone has had time to circle the items that sound interesting, ask them to count the number of each letter they circled. Record these numbers in the results section. When everyone has their results ranked highest letter to lowest, share the “results answer key” on your screen. This will guide them to a section of the Ohio Family Guide that they have ranked as most interesting. Some members 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. Remind them they can take additional projects in these sections next year.

**TALK IT OVER**

**Reflect:** Once they have picked a couple choices, read the questions below.

- Have you selected a project you think you will like?
- Will this project allow you to learn something new?
- Is your project age appropriate for you, according to Family Guide age chart?
- Can you complete this project in time for your judging date?
- 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 additional support? If so, is there an available adult that could help you?
- 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) according to county/club guidance. There is also a selection of books available for free online for 2021 that can be found at this link: [https://ohio4h.org/stayathomeprojects](https://ohio4h.org/stayathomeprojects)

**EVALUATION**

Place the following link in the chat for attendees to use to complete the evaluation for the session [go.osu.edu/bestbettermutual](go.osu.edu/bestbettermutual).