



4-H Member's Guide to Project Work



Most 4-H programs center around an individual and his or her project. Projects help you as a 4-H member to grow and to have real-life experiences. Project work is the “learn-by-doing” part of 4-H.

Project Objectives

- To help 4-H members grow.
- To help develop skills.
- To help 4-H'ers learn how to make wise decisions.
- To help 4-H'ers learn how to work with others.
- To encourage 4-H'ers to set goals and to learn the latest scientific methods.

Considerations

- Select a project you like.
- Select a project you can complete.
- Consider the money it will take. Can parents help?
- Consider the space and equipment you have at home.
- Consider the time the project will take.
- Consider how much parental support you will need for the project.
- Be aware of the opportunities for growth in this project.
- A 4-H project should be fun, serve a purpose, and be worth the effort.
- Select only the number of projects you can complete.

Mississippi 4-H Projects

<i>Animal</i>	<i>Family and Consumer Sciences</i>	<i>Personal Development</i>
Beef	Child Development	Career Exploration
Dairy	Clothing	Citizenship
Goats	Consumer Education	Communications
Horses	Dairy Foods	Health
Meat Science	Food Nutrition	Leadership
Pet Care	Food Preservation	Modeling
Poultry	Interior Design	Personal Development
Sheep		Photography
Swine		Public Speaking
Veterinary Science	<i>Natural Resources</i>	
	Conservation	<i>Plant Sciences</i>
<i>Engineering</i>	Entomology	Field Crops
Aerospace	Forestry	Gardening/Horticulture
ATV	Shooting Sports	Junior Master Gardener
Automotive	Sport Fishing	Plant and Soil Science
Bicycle	Wildlife	
Electric		
Robotics		
Small Engines		
Tractors		

Curriculum

Here are several things that are available to help you learn about your project:

- 4-H Project Book
- Project training workshops
- Tours
- Exhibits
- Contests—judging, visual presentation, miscellaneous, and 4-H records.

Goals

When you write down your goals and plans, you have already made a step toward reaching those goals. Your written goals will help you keep track of where you are going and how you are going to get there. You will also be able to see your progress as you “check off” your accomplishments. Write your goals and plans for each project. Use MSU Extension Publication 1421 *4-H Member’s Project Goal*.

Your project goals should include the following:

- **Knowledge goals**—things you want to learn.
- **Skill goals**—things you want to raise, make, and/or do.
- **Safety goals**—safety practices you need to learn and develop in your project.
- **Leadership goals**—things you want to do and teach others.
- **Citizenship goals**—things you want to do for others.

As you get older or become more advanced in your project(s), you will want to set goals in the following areas:

- **Energy goals**—how your project relates to energy and ways to save our natural resources.
- **Economic goals**—what you will do to save and make money.
- **Experiment and research goals**—studies and experiments you can conduct in your project.
- **Career goals**—studies, interviews.
- **Other goals**—workshops or contests you plan to participate in through your project.

Requirements

For some projects, you will find a list of requirements in your project book. For other projects, you will need to study your project and make a list of things you want to learn and do. Listed below are some general requirements that relate to all projects:

- Make a set of project goals (reference Project Member’s Manual and Publication 1421 *4-H Member’s Project Goals*).

- Complete certain goals each month. Most project work is done at home.
- Keep a record of goals completed.
- Exhibit your project work.
- Enter a contest (judging, visual presentation, or miscellaneous) at the local and county levels.
- Attend workshops that are available in your community or county on your particular project.
- Attend 4-H meetings regularly.
- Complete a 4-H project record each year.
- Develop leadership by teaching other interested people something about your project.
- Carry out citizenship activities related to your 4-H project.
- Continue to study and broaden your project knowledge and skills.

The following items will help you identify things you can learn and do in your projects:

1. Things to do and resources you can use to develop a **knowledge** of your project.
 - Read the 4-H Project Book.
 - Read library books related to your projects.
 - Read magazines.
 - Purchase literature related to your project.
 - Get an owner’s manual.
 - Attend workshops related to your project.
 - Interview someone who is knowledgeable about your project.
 - Tour places related to your project.
 - Develop a research paper related to your project.
 - Subscribe to magazines.
 - Go on field trips to study your project.
 - Study careers related to your project.
 - Study catalogs.
 - Take a correspondence course related to your project.
 - Study history related to your project.
2. **Skills** are the **doing** part of 4-H. It is important that you develop your skills to your potential.
 - Make several things related to your project.
 - Raise and properly care for something related to your project.
 - Repair things related to your project.
 - Make a list of skills related to your project and practice them.

3. **Safety** is a part of almost every 4-H project.
 - Purchase safety equipment.
 - Make a safety plan (locating safety hazards).
 - Participate in a safety clinic.
 - Study accidents related to your project.
 - Study state and national safety laws related to your project.
 - Use warning signs when necessary.
 - Secure a safe place to work.
 - Follow all safety recommendations.

4. **Leadership** is also a part of every 4-H project. It is your duty as a 4-H member to develop leadership roles and to carry out activities related to your 4-H project.
 - Present a display in schools to promote your project.
 - Assist individual members with their projects (list ways).
 - Conduct interviews.
 - Help plan and conduct workshops about your project.
 - Serve as chair of your project group.
 - Teach groups about project work.
 - Organize a 4-H project club.
 - Conduct project contests in the local 4-H club.
 - Assist your volunteer leader with a project.
 - Set up a project tour for your club.
 - Assist with county contests.
 - Serve as a project leader for your club.
 - Recruit new club members into your project.
 - Write an article for your local newspaper.
 - Help organize a project club.
 - Serve as a group leader during a workshop or tour.
 - Assist with county exhibit days—register exhibits in your project.
 - Secure a donor on the county level for your 4-H project.
 - Teach special needs children about your project.
 - Plan and organize a workshop related to your project for special needs audiences.
 - Write and give speeches about your project.
 - Develop a business related to your project.
 - Serve on a committee related to your project.
 - Write news articles about your project.
 - Make exhibits to tell other people about your project.

5. **Citizenship** is a part of every project. You should set several project citizenship goals.
 - Appear on TV and/or radio and talk about your project.
 - Write an information sheet about your project and use it as a handout during workshops.
 - Develop a PowerPoint presentation or a video about a certain part of your project.
 - Explore and develop social media opportunities.

5. **Citizenship** is a part of every project. You should set several project citizenship goals.
 - Discuss ways you can work in your community to promote a part of your project through associations and private businesses.
 - Make the public aware of the economic importance of your project.
 - Write your state and national legislators about issues related to your project.
 - Think of something related to your project that you can give to shut-ins.
 - Find pen pals who are interested in your project.
 - Discuss project issues with local officials.
 - Write project donors, thanking them for their support.
 - Sell a product from your project and use the money for some worthy cause.
 - Assist friends and neighbors with work related to your project.
 - Make speeches about the importance of your project to the economy, society, or school.
 - Invite others to ride with you to a project workshop.
 - Organize a campaign to improve something related to your project.
 - Conduct a radio program on your project, making the community aware of an issue.
 - During National 4-H Week, do some type of project promotion.
 - Take pictures of other 4-H'ers' project exhibits and use the pictures for publicity.
 - Report to the proper authority things that you see in your project that are dangerous to people of the community.
 - Do volunteer work related to your main project.
 - Serve on a county or community committee that is related to your project.
 - Loan something you have that is related to your project.

6. Environmental Stewardship

- Study how your project relates to conserving our natural resources.
- Share your information with others in your project area regarding stewardship.

7. Economics

- Study consumer reports about your project.
- Watch television. Listen to the radio for economic items related to your project. Check various websites.
- Conduct your own price study.
- Study how to cut cost and maintain quality.

8. Experiments

- Develop your own design.
- Compare the outcome of more than one item, using different ingredients.
- Invent something that is useful in your project.
- Conduct experiments related to your project.

9. Careers

- Study careers related to your project.
- Tour businesses related to your project.
- Attend seminars about careers.
- Interview people in different careers related to your project.
- Write several colleges and universities concerning careers related to your project.
- Start your own personal business related to your project.

Do You Need Help?

Get help from the following:

- Your 4-H club leader.
- Your 4-H club project leader.
- The Mississippi State University Extension Service county and state staff.
- Retired senior citizens in your community.
- Professional people with careers related to your project.
- Businesses related to your project.

When Is Your Project Over?

When you have met your goals you set at the beginning of the year and when you have submitted a project report to your 4-H leader, you have finished your project. Your project report might include your project record sheet along with a story.

Important

Write thank-you notes to your donors, 4-H leader, parents, and others who helped you with your 4-H project.

Publication 1425 (POD-08-18)

Distributed in Mississippi by **John Long**, PhD, Assistant Extension Professor, 4-H Youth Development.



Copyright 2018 by Mississippi State University. All rights reserved. This publication may be copied and distributed without alteration for nonprofit educational purposes provided that credit is given to the Mississippi State University Extension Service.

Produced by Agricultural Communications.

Mississippi State University is an equal opportunity institution. Discrimination in university employment, programs, or activities based on race, color, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, religion, national origin, disability, age, sexual orientation, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran, or any other status protected by applicable law is prohibited. Questions about equal opportunity programs or compliance should be directed to the Office of Compliance and Integrity, 56 Morgan Avenue, P.O. 6044, Mississippi State, MS 39762, (662) 325-5839.

Extension Service of Mississippi State University, cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture. Published in furtherance of Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914. GARY B. JACKSON, Director