



4-H VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SERIES

N e b r a s k a 4 - H Y o u t h D e v e l o p m e n t

4-H PROJECTS

The 4-H project is the "gateway" to the rest of the 4-H program. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that the project is the "gateway" to the 4-Her. Projects provide the basis of the 4-H program by offering various educational experiences. Carrying out a project will help the member "learn by doing" as well as learn "why" things happen the way they do.

Why projects?

- The project is a teaching tool that can be used to develop many desirable traits in addition to the more evident project skills.
- Project work is a means to an end not the end itself. The development of the individual is the most important consideration.

What are projects?

- Projects are real life experiences that help 4-Hers learn to make sound decisions. Projects put the hands and mind to work.

The selection of 4-H projects has expanded greatly over the years. There are over 100 different projects. Most of the projects have been planned with several phases so that a member may advance to more difficult and challenging activities within that project.

Projects are selected early in the 4-H year when enrollment sheets are filled out.

Check with your county to find out registration due dates and when enrollment forms are due.

What are the objectives of 4-H projects?

- Create a sense of ownership.
- Give a feeling of achievement.
- Strengthen family and community ties.
- Provide members the opportunity to:
 - learn project skills.
 - develop and understand project knowledge.
 - develop good attitudes.
 - assume responsibility.
 - provide healthful competition.
 - make meaningful decisions.

- Provide leisure time activities.
- Explore career opportunities and thus the need for continued education. All projects are, in a sense, career explorative -- giving each member a taste of the work and responsibilities involved.

In selecting projects, the youth should consider the following:

- Does it meet your needs and interests?
- Is the project compatible with your age and ability (physical and mental)?
- Will it challenge you educationally?
- How much time do you have and how much time does the project require?
- In what season of the year does most of the activity of the project occur?
- Is the project acceptable to your parents and does it fit into the family needs and situation?
- How much will the project cost?
- Is adequate space and equipment available?
- Is there an opportunity for ownership and management responsibilities?
- Are leaders available to help you with the project or are your parents willing to help with the project?

How are projects conducted?

Project work is conducted through various delivery methods:

- Project meetings at club, county, district or state events.
- Demonstrations and talks at club meetings, county or district contests.
- Tours.
- Family activities or work at home.
- Exhibiting at the County Fair.
- Recordkeeping.
- Workshops or camps.