



Self Determined Project Guide

Project Background

A 4-H Self-Determined Project is an opportunity for members to pursue projects not offered as part of the Wyoming 4-H Project List.

Selecting a Project

You may already have a topic in mind for your self-determined project. Please be sure it is not something already covered as part of the projects already offered by Wyoming 4-H. If you are not sure what topic to explore, start by making a list of your interests and things you enjoy doing. Think about subjects that excite you, things you are curious about, your wishes, your dreams. Use this list to determine something you would like to learn more about.

Project Guidelines

1. Identify a possible topic for your project.
2. Complete the Proposed Plan for Approval and turn it into your 4-H Educator. Your 4-H Educator will take in to consideration 4-H rules and the risk involved with each project before approving your project.
3. Once your project is approved, complete the Planning Your Adventure section (Steps 1 through 3) of this guide by discussing and researching your topic, by planning and completing at least two learning experiences, and by planning and completing at least two leadership/citizenship activities.
4. Complete the Conducting Your Adventure section by identifying and completing three areas of interest and three activities within each area.
5. Complete the Reporting Your Adventure section of this guide.

Wyoming 4-H Self Determined Project

Proposed Plan for Approval

Before you begin your self determined project please complete this form and send it to your 4-H Educator for approval. Self determined projects include a wide variety of subjects, because of this your 4-H Educator needs to be informed on the subject you are wanting to learn more about.

Name: _____

4-H Club: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Age: _____

Topic or subject of your self-determined project:

Please identify a 4-H leader, parent, or other adult that will be helping you with this project.

Name: _____

Contact Information (phone or e-mail): _____

Explain why you identified this person, what skill set do they have related to the project:

Briefly describe what you will do for this project.

4-H Educator Approval

The project above has met the following criteria and is approved as a self-determined project:

1. Is not a current project learning opportunity in another Wyoming 4-H project.
2. Complies with 4-H rules.
3. Does not involve a high risk level or does not conflict with current risk management practices.

County 4-H Educator: _____

Date: _____

PLANNING YOUR ADVENTURE

Step 1. Let's Begin (Check off what you plan to do.)

- Discuss your ideas with family, friends, and of course, your project leader.
- Check books about your topic at the library before you begin.
- Visit websites that provide more information about your topic.
- 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.

Step 2. Learning Experiences

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 leader or adult to initial next to the date 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.
- Prepare a public service announcement for school, radio, television, or the Internet on a topic related to your project.
- Help organize a club activity on this project.
- Prepare your own demonstration, illustrated talk or exhibit.
- Participate in county judging.

Learning Experience	Date Completed	Project Leader Initials
<i>(Example) Demonstration: Showed different sizes of model railroad cars to club members.</i>	7/15/YR	BH

Step 3. Leadership/Citizenship Activities

Choose at least two leadership/citizenship activities from the list below (or create your own). Write them in the table below. Record your progress by asking your project leader or adult to initial next to the date each one is completed. You may add to or change these activities at any time.

- Assist in setting up and/or cleaning up for a show or event.
- Help someone with his or her project.
- Help organize a workshop or show in your community.
- Encourage a friend to join 4-H and take a project.
- Teach someone something that you learned about 4-H or about your topic.
- Invite someone to talk to your club about your topic.
- Give advice to a member who is preparing a project for the fair.
- Prepare and exhibit a display promoting your topic or 4-H.

Leadership/Citizenship Activity	Date Completed	Project Leader Initials
<i>(Example) Helped younger members set up a model railroad.</i>	8/11/YR	BH

CONDUCTING YOUR ADVENTURE

Every self-determined project is broken down into areas of interest. These are the specific things you wish to explore during your project adventure. In the space provided on the next page, identify at least three areas of interest with at least three activities per area.

Ask your identified project leader or adult to initial next to the date each one is completed.

(Example) My first area of interest is to plan a layout.

Activity 1: *Locate a reference book on model railroading to use during the project.*

Activity 2: *Create a track plan for a model railroad.*

Activity 3: *Identify a knowledgeable person who is willing to help.*

Activity 4: *Talk with parents about where to put a layout.*

Date completed: 4/18/YR **Project helper initials:** BH

CONDUCTING YOUR ADVENTURE (CONTINUED)

My first area of interest is to

Activity 1:

Activity 2:

Activity 3:

Activity 4:

Date completed: _____ Project leader initials: _____

My first area of interest is to

Activity 1:

Activity 2:

Activity 3:

Activity 4:

Date completed: _____ Project helper initials: _____

My first area of interest is to

Activity 1:

Activity 2:

Activity 3:

Activity 4:

Date completed: _____ Project helper initials: _____

My first area of interest is to

Activity 1:

Activity 2:

Activity 3:

Activity 4:

Date completed: _____ Project helper initials: _____

REPORTING YOUR ADVENTURE

In the space below, summarize what you did and learned. Then arrange for a project review with your project leader, who should review this completed project guide with you. Such evaluations help you assess what you learned and how you grew as a 4-H member.

In addition, you may want to take part in county project judging. This level of evaluation determines how well you did on your project. You may also want to represent your county at the Wyoming State Fair.

Your Summary

Adopted from 4-H 365, Self Determined Project Guide by Rob Horton and Kathy Cox, The Ohio State University Extension.

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