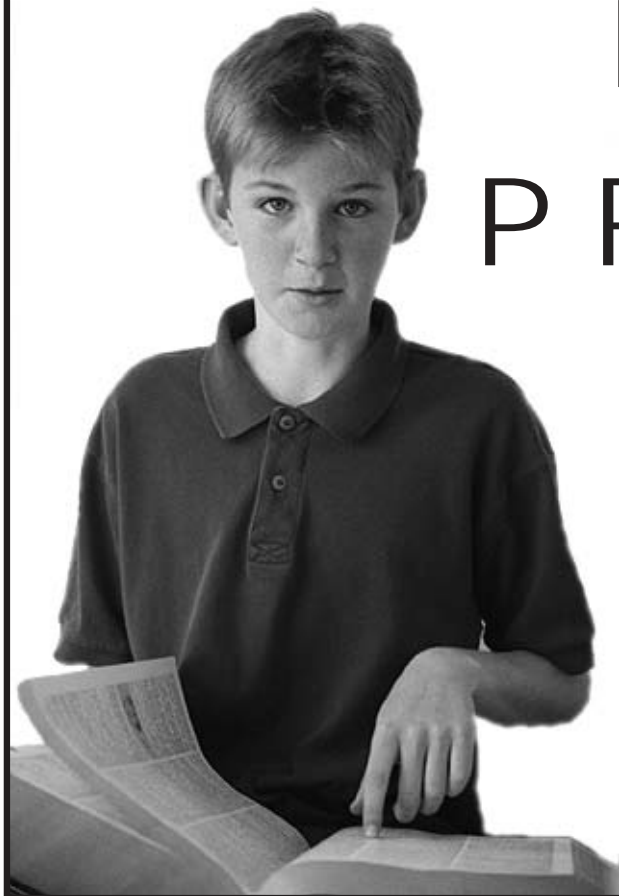




WYOMING 4-H



DESIGNING
MY OWN
PROJECT



32501C-99

Cooperative Extension Service
UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
College of Agriculture

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Specific materials were obtained from:

Designing Your Own 4-H Project, Gleason, Mesler, Pierick, University of Wisconsin Extension

Do Your Own Thing, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Nebraska

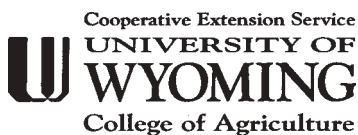
Self Determined, Cooperative Extension Service, Colorado State University

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What is a Self-Determined Project?

A self-determined project is one you design yourself. This project allows you to pursue subjects not offered in traditional 4-H projects.

Check Point: Be sure to complete the application form found on page 7 and have it approved before beginning your project.

Sample ideas for self-determined projects include:

- Designing computer Web pages
- Restoring a vintage vehicle
- Producing an educational video tape
- Exploring astronomy
- Learning sign language
- Helping to build a house with Habitat for Humanity

See page 11 for more ideas.

Selecting a Project

You already may have selected a topic for your self-determined project. If you have, develop that idea. If you're searching for an idea, make an inventory of your interests, needs, aspirations, and concerns. In the beginning, write down everything you can think of, and then start rating ideas until you select the idea you want to pursue. Make a list for each of the following:

Interests:

Subjects that excite you and gain your attention or curiosity, ideas that cause you to say, "Oh, I'd like to do that!"

Needs:

Items you, your family, or community seem to lack: you say to yourself, "Yes, I can see that it is necessary to do that."

Aspirations:

Strong wishes and goals you want to achieve: welling up in you is an ardent desire, which causes you to say, "Now, I really want to try to reach that goal."

Concerns:

Those issues that affect the welfare and happiness of your family, club, community, society, or world.

Experiences:

Personal knowledge of various subjects.

Skills:

Competence in various tasks.

Resources:

Items, tools, or people to which you have access.



How to make your brain storm

Ask many people for ideas. People who might be helpful include:

Friends	Neighbors	Family members
4-H leaders	Business people	Farmers
Ranchers	Homemakers	Teachers
Extension personnel	Specialists	Professionals
People with social concerns	Clergy	Mechanics
Counselors	Scientists	Nurses
Craftsmen	Dietitians	Dentists
Laborers	Small shop owners	Doctors
Engineers	Artists	Professors
Computer technicians	Bankers	Veterinarians

To select the topic you will use for your self-determined project, ask yourself:

1. What personal experience have I had in this area?
2. Where will I go to find background information?
3. How much will the project cost?
4. Who could be helpful in planning or carrying out the project?
5. How worthwhile will the project be?
6. What will I learn from the project?
7. How will the project fit into my home and family situation? Will my parents approve?
8. How will the project benefit others?
9. How will the project benefit me?

10. Do I have enough interest to see the project through to completion?

My Inventory of Interests

List some topics suitable for your project. Include ideas or problems you would like to investigate, an activity you would like to do, ways in which you could be helpful to other people, and topics that could be helpful to you. Select one or two specific ideas to pursue.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

My Project Plan (Sample)

Review this sample plan before writing your own.

Title and description of project: Design and produce a video tape

Why I selected this project: To provide an educational video for the 4-H dog project

Month January Day 11 Year 2000

My Project Goals (What I plan to do and learn)	Date to be finished	Accomplishments and Frustrations (Complete this section throughout the year)
<p>Goal: Learn to use video equipment.</p> <p>Specific Goals and Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Contact TV stores and the Extension office to locate video equipment.2. Find a person to teach me how to use the video camera.3. Practice using the camera at 4-H Fun Night.4. Develop a videotape of two judging classes as a practice exercise. <p>Other goals: Develop a videotape of basic exercises in the novice dog training program.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ask a dog trainer to set up a model exercise.2. Videotape the following exercises:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Heel on leashb. Figure 8c. Stand for examinationd. Heel off leashe. Recallf. Long sitg. Long down3. Edit the tape.4. Ask the instructor to add the audio to the tape.	<p>5/1/2000</p> <p>2/1/2001</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. In early January, Dad and I went to several TV shops but nobody rented video equipment.1. During a basketball tournament game on January 29, I saw a family friend videotaping the games. Dad and I told him about my project. He agreed to teach me how to use the video camera.2. Mr. Brewer took me out on Sunday afternoon to practice with the camera.3. With my paper route money, I bought two videotapes to use for myself.4. Mr. Brewer taught me how to use a tri-pod.5. At the 4-H Fun Night we videotaped each performance and evaluated the tape for composition, focus, color, and brightness.6. When meats team workouts began in April, I videotaped a class of hams, as well as 20 retail cuts.7. The week before the dog show, the dog leader and I set up model scenes of the exercises for the novice dog. As he directed the members, I videotaped each of the seven exercises. We have made two copies of this tape for leaders and members to borrow. <p>Designing my own video tape project made this an exciting year. During the next year, I want to save up to buy my own videotape camera.</p>

Make a Project Plan

Think about the ideas used in this sample. Consider the project ideas you selected on page 2. Write your project plan on page 4 and 5. Complete your project goals soon after you receive your materials.

My Project Plan

Review the sample plan before writing your own.

Title and description of project: _____

Why I selected this project: _____

Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

My Project Goals (What I plan to do and learn)	Date to be finished	Accomplishments and Frustrations (Complete this section throughout the year)

My Project Goals (What I plan to do and learn)	Date to be finished	Accomplishments and Frustrations (Complete this section throughout the year)



Wyoming 4-H Self-Determined Project Proposed Plan for Approval



Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service
University of Wyoming

Before you begin your 4-H self-determined project, complete the form below and send it to your county Extension office. Because the self-determined project includes a wide variety of subjects and programs, your county Extension personnel need to be informed of your plans. Wait until the form is signed and returned to you before starting your project.

Name: _____

County: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Age: _____

Topic or subject of your self-determined project:

Briefly describe what you will do:

Approved: _____ County Extension Office

_____ UW Risk Management Office

Evaluating the Project

How well did you accomplish what you set out to do?

Evidence of what you have accomplished can be collected in a number of ways.

Take Photographs Photographs, slides, even a video can tell a story. Before and after photos are very effective. A series of photos showing the steps or different stages in the development of your project can effectively evaluate your project in pictures.

Keep Records Decide what kind of information you need to keep. A diary, outline, story, tables, charts, drawings, and/or pictures can help tell your story.

Your record should show:

What you have done

What you learned from the project

The project's cost

How your project benefitted others

How your project benefitted you

Use your imagination. Let the records you develop be an exciting reflection of what your project means to you.

Tell Others Further satisfaction and opportunities for growth come from sharing what you have learned with others.

Sharing also can help you summarize, analyze, and further assess what you are accomplishing.



Other 4-H members suggest offering:

1. Workshops, programs, meetings, and sharing with individuals
2. Exhibits, window displays, bulletin boards, and fair booths
3. Demonstrations, illustrated talks, dramatic scenes, and TV programs
4. Talks, interviews, panel discussions, and radio programs
5. Tours and field trips
6. To write newspaper articles and feature stories in magazines
7. A self-determined project open house

My Project Evaluation

What aspect of the project was most valuable? Why? _____

What difficulties did you encounter? _____

What could have been improved? _____

What recommendations would you make for others conducting a similar project? _____

Helper or leader evaluation: _____

Date

Name

Ideas

- Adopt a grandparent
- Study animal behavior
- Learn more about antiques
- Study astrology
- Study astronomy
- Study aviation
- Try bird watching
- Learn more about cartooning
- Learn how to play chess, bridge, or backgammon
- Collect coins and stamps
- Learn more about computers
- Study creative writing
- Learn how to design jewelry
- Study electronics
- Study engineering
- Study film making
- Explore various art forms
- Work on family genealogy
- Study genetics – humans and plants
- Learn more about growing plants
- Study historical events or collect historical photos
- Try hot air ballooning
- Learn how to build a hot rod
- Learn how to conduct Internet searches
- Study karate
- Study magic
- Learn about medical technology
- Study music
- Learn how to restore antique autos
- Serve as a Big Brother or Big Sister
- Learn how to use a shortwave radio
- Study sign language
- Study small animals (gerbils, hamsters, aquatics)
- Learn about solar home design
- Help with Special Olympics
- Learn how to do stained glass
- Learn about storytelling
- Study taxidermy
- Learn how to design terrariums or aquariums
- Study theater arts
- Learn how to train mice
- Study weather
- Study welding
- Study yoga



