Exploring Gardening with 4-H

Developing Life Skills by:
- experiences in problem solving, critical thinking, and decision making
- fostering a positive self-image
- communicating goals and sharing intentions and feelings
- organizing, planning, and cooperating

Learning Objective
The purpose of the 4-H program is to provide positive opportunities for a young person to develop the essential life skills of mastery, independence, generosity, and belonging through their own areas of interest.

In this project area of interest, youth may learn...
1. how to correctly plan a garden.
2. proper planting techniques for various fruits, vegetables, and herbs.
3. how to properly care for a garden including weeding, watering, and fertilization.
4. ways to harvest and store produce.
5. about careers in gardening and about marketing through cooperatives and farmer’s markets.
6. the sciences of soils, photosynthesis, season extenders, and hydroponics.

Here are some places to share what you have learned by exhibiting or competing:
- County fair
- State fair
- Share with your club
- Take your exhibit to a senior citizen center or care center
- Share in a school show
- Display at a community event or activity along with others from your club or group
- Sell your items at a local farmer’s market

Resource Materials
This project has curricula for youth education and to support volunteer teaching.
1. See Them Sprout (70501C)
2. Let’s Get Growing (70502C)
3. Take Your Pick (70503C)
4. Growing Profits (70507C)
5. Helper’s Guide (70500B)
6. Gardening Exhibit Guide

Here are some suggestions of things you can make or create to exhibit or share with others:
- create a display or poster demonstrating something you learned
- make a “hot box” for starters or for winter growing
- design your ultimate garden and show your plans and rationale
- grow some fruits and vegetables and put them together to show such as:
  - Green or yellow snap beans
  - Table beets
  - Broccoli
  - Brussels sprouts
  - Cabbage and/or Chinese cabbage
  - Carrot
  - Cauliflower
  - Celery
  - Slicing or pickling cucumbers
  - Sweet corn
  - Dill
  - Eggplant
  - Endive
  - Mustard or collard greens
  - Kholrabi
  - Head and/or leaf lettuce
  - Muskmelons
  - Dry or green onions
  - Parsley
  - Green or edible podded peas
  - Bell, sweet, or hot peppers
  - Red or white potatoes
  - Pumpkin
  - Radishes
  - Rhubarb
  - Rutabaga
  - Spinach
  - Summer or winter-type squash
  - Swiss chard
  - Cherry or large tomatoes
  - Turnips
  - Watermelon
  - Raspberries
  - Blueberries
  - Strawberries
  - Apples

For suggestions of number of items to exhibit, see the Open Class sections of fair books.
Citizenship Opportunities

Giving back to your community is a great way to not only provide service but also to learn more about the world we live in. You could...

- help your club by doing a community service activity or project.
- volunteer to help at a community event -- help is always needed.
- cleanup a highway or city park.
- do a food drive, school-supply drive, or clothing drive to help others in need.
- make and give something away or participate in an organized service drive or event.
- Give some produce to the local food bank, citizen center, or hospice center.

Leadership Opportunities

Providing leadership to others comes in many different forms. In fact, only a small part of being a leader is actually because of being elected. Here are some ways to be a leader or become a leader. You could...

1. volunteer to head a committee in your club over an activity.
2. volunteer to do something to help your club.
3. volunteer to be in charge of leading a song, ice-breaker, lead the pledge, or cleanup after a meeting.
4. volunteer to teach a workshop, clinic, or demonstration.
5. mentor a younger youth in 4-H with similar or different interests.
6. organize a field trip or fun activity for your club or project group.
7. run for a position in your club as president, secretary, or something else.

Goals/Recordkeeping/Completion

One of the basic principles of 4-H is to set goals and then work to accomplish them. Being able to share what you learned while working toward goals is valuable. We have a way that we like to use to help you, your parents, your club volunteers, and your 4-H educator to know how things went each year - it’s called your 4-H Portfolio (some call them record books).

For each project, you are asked to set goals and share what you learned, tell what you did, show how you are involved, and tell what you liked, disliked, or felt about doing the project. You will be asked to complete these and give them to adults for evaluation and to possibly learn other ways to compete and be recognized.

4-H Opportunities

- County 4-H camp
- County/club educational workshops, days, clinics
- Club activities and events
- County activities and events
- Western National 4-H Roundup
- Youth Leadership Conference
- National 4-H Conference
- National 4-H Congress
- Citizenship Washington Focus trip
- County fair
- State fair

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For more information go online to www.Wyoming4H.org