

4-H Projects



ABOUT 4-H PROJECTS

A 4-H project is a series of learning experiences about an area of interest to the 4-H member. 4-H club members are required to participate in one 4-H project each year and complete a project record about that project. The Texas 4-H program supports about 40 different project areas from which 4-H members can choose. 4-H members are responsible for the costs of their 4-H projects. Project expenses can range anywhere from just a few dollars (outdoor education, foods & nutrition) to several hundred dollars (livestock, horses).

SELECTING A PROJECT

The 4-H project should provide a positive learning experience for the 4-H member. Leaders helping boys and girls in the selection of projects should be aware of factors that affect successful project work. Boys and girls and their parents need to consider these same factors. Leaders should encourage members to talk with their parents about projects so their choices will have meaning and importance to the entire family. When possible, leaders also should discuss the project selections with parents. Important factors to consider when counseling youth on 4-H project selection include:

THE MEMBER	THE FAMILY
<p>What are the member's interest? What are the member's abilities? What new abilities can the member develop by taking a specific project? Is the new member exploring projects that will offer new fields of interest? Does the member have the proper materials and facilities with which to work? How old is the member?</p>	<p>Does the project fit into the home situation? Does the family have an interest in the project selected?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THE CLUB</p> <p>How many members of the group wish to take similar projects?</p>

SUMMARY OF TEXAS 4-H PROJECTS

BEEF

Learn beef cattle nutrition, health, reproduction and management practices by raising a heifer or steer. Raise, train and fit cattle for livestock shows; participate in livestock judging contests.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Focuses on the physical aspect of plants and animals, from single cell organisms to mammals. Includes investigation of biotechnology and genetic discovery.

CITIZENSHIP

Learn the importance of helping others and contributing to your community. Design and carry out individual and group community service projects.

CLOTHING & TEXTILES

Learn how to construct garments or make wise choices when purchasing clothing and accessories. Learn fabric selection, fashion design, plan wardrobes, develop proper grooming and hygiene habits.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

Community Service Projects are a service learning experience where youth determine a need for their community and/or county. The plan is put into place by youth (and adults) working to organize the necessary persons, develop or collect the necessary resources, and then implement or distribute the need to the community.

COMPANION ANIMALS

Relate to skills learned in any project concerning the care, maintenance, or production of small animals (e.g. dogs, hamsters, fish, etc.).

SUMMARY OF TEXAS 4-H PROJECTS

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Focuses on interaction with computers, use of software, development of software programs, and using the internet.

CONSUMER EDUCATION

Learn about making choices as consumers, develop shopping skills, learn consumers' rights and responsibilities, how consumers affect the environment and money management.

DAIRY CATTLE

Learn the characteristics of the 5 dairy breeds. Practice proper nutrition, health, management and reproduction of dairy cattle by raising a dairy calf. Participate in dairy judging contests, raise, train and fit dairy cattle for show.

DOG CARE & TRAINING

Become familiar with the various breeds of dogs; provide for the dog's health, grooming, feed and early training; teach obedience and tricks. Participate in dog shows.

ENTOMOLOGY

Become familiar with the insect world by studying both helpful and harmful insects. Build an insect collection.

ENTREPRENURSHIP

Allows youth to explore the world of business and how to develop new business opportunities for themselves and their community.

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

Includes three main areas: personality development, child development and education for parenthood. Each area is further divided into specific projects.

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FIELD & STREAM

This broad program involves hunting, fishing, camping, natural history, outdoor cookery and related activities. Each club determines the elements used.

FOOD & NUTRITION

Gain an understanding of good nutrition and its effect on health. Learn how to buy foods and how to plan, prepare and serve tasty and nutritious meals to the family and friends. Exhibit a dish at the Food Show.

FORESTRY

Develop an appreciation for the forest resources of Texas. Learn more about trees and develop certain skills in caring for woodlands. Participate in forestry judging contests.

GLOBAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Provides 4-H youth with educational opportunities that will cultivate an awareness of global issues, develop culturally aware citizens and provide opportunities to learn about and address major issues confronting the world.

GOATS

Project involves raising and caring for live animals while learning about animal health, nutrition, breeding, selection, and marketing. The 4-H goat project offers outstanding opportunities for individuals to gain experience in decision making, record keeping, responsibility, sportsmanship and leadership.

HEALTH

Gain an understanding of how your own actions, choices and habits affect your health. Learn how nutrition and exercise contribute to a healthy lifestyle.

HORSE

Develop and practice horsemanship skills; learn nutrition, health, reproduction and management skills for mares and foals; learn techniques for training yearlings, weanlings, and halter or pleasure horses. Exhibit at horse shows and participate in judging or horse bowl contests.

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HORTICULTURE

Learn how to grow vegetables, flowers and other landscape plants. Learn methods of plant propagation, fertilization, planting, pruning, disease and insect control and plant selection.

HOUSING & HOME ENVIRONMENT

Learn and apply principles of design and function to make the home more attractive, safe, comfortable and efficient for all family members. The project also teaches: the importance of efficient energy use as it relates to housing; water conservation in the home; waste management and indoor air quality as it effects our health and safety.

LEADERSHIP

Learn the different club officer positions and their roles; parliamentary procedure (rules for running a meeting); how to lead groups; gain skills in public speaking.

MEAT SCIENCE

Learn to identify and determine the relative quality of wholesale and retail cuts of meat. Participate in judging contests.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Provides opportunities for youth to explore resources provided by earth. These include such areas as wildlife, water, air, conservation, recycling, etc.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Gives youth the opportunity to explore the great outdoors and develop skills in camping, backpacking, etc.

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOGRAPHY

Learn to care for the camera, to compose scenes, to select films and camera accessories, and to mount photographs. Explore photography as a hobby or profession.

POULTRY

Learn the proper nutrition, health and management practices for raising poultry for market or for egg production. Exhibit at poultry shows.

SUMMARY OF TEXAS 4-H PROJECTS

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Learn the various types of speeches and the proper way to present and use them. Select and prepare the various types of speeches and present them at club meetings, contests, awards programs, or civic clubs.

RABBITS

Learn the proper nutrition, health, and management practices for raising rabbits. Completion time: 12 weeks to 12 months.

RANGE SCIENCE & MANAGEMENT

Develops knowledge and skill in practice range and ranch management.

RECREATION

Learn how recreation enhances your life. Learn games, sports, dances, songs and icebreakers. Learn how to lead others in recreation.

SAFETY

Study about and carry out activities which help others identify safe procedures for common activities or identify unsafe conditions in their environment. Suggested areas of study include fire safety and prevention, firearm safety, safety and accident prevention in the home, at work or at play.

SHEEP

Learn proper feeding, health and management practices by raising market lambs or a commercial breeding flock. Exhibit at livestock shows and participate in judging contests.

SHOOTING SPORTS

Learn safe and responsible handling of firearms and archery equipment. Gain an appreciation for shooting sports as a hobby or career.

SOIL AND CROP SCIENCE

Offers activities and experiences in the area of soils and science of raising productive and healthy crops. This project also includes some opportunities in the entomology and water projects as well.

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SPORTFISHING

A comprehensive introduction to fishing and related activities.

SWINE

Practice proper feeding, health and management practices by raising a gilt or sow for the purpose of producing feeder pigs or breeding stock. Feed, train and fit a meat type barrows or gilts for showing at a livestock show.

THEATER AND PERFORMANCE ARTS

Teaches the basics of stage performance, stage design and much more. This project also provides opportunities for youth to develop communication skills, decision making, and problem solving as they develop their skits or other performances.

VETERINARY SCIENCE

Learn the characteristics of normal healthy animals and how to keep them healthy; causes, prevention and control of animal diseases and internal and external parasites; animal behavior and anatomy. Explore career opportunities.

WATER

Allows youth to explore the conservation of water and how water is an essential part of all aspects of our lives and world.

WILDLIFE & FISHERIES

Explore and learn about the animal life of a specific area and its needs for survival. Areas of study include Texas mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. Practice conservation techniques. Explore career opportunities.

WORKPLACE PREPARATION/ CAREERS

Allows youth to explore future careers and educational requirements for a variety of jobs. Career development can be done as a separate exploratory project or as a part of any 4-H project.