



4-H Projects

4-H engages youth in **project-based** education. Through project learning, youth can dive deeper into their **interests** and **passions**, ultimately **mastering** new skills. 4-H projects are meant to be **hands-on** to create a memorable learning experience.

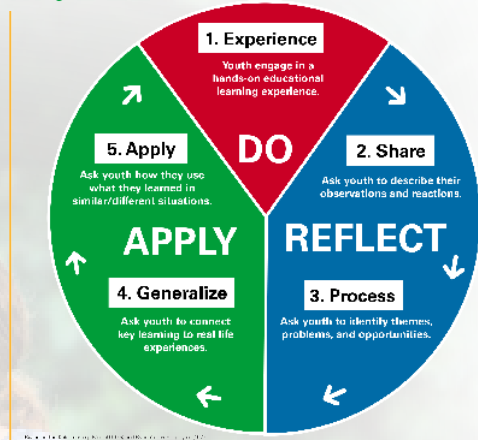
What is a project?

A project is simply a topic area that **sparks** a youth's interest! Projects can be offered at a club or group setting, or on your own outside of the club. 4-H members are encouraged to enroll in only one or two projects for their first year. 4-H members in 3rd grade and higher are eligible to sign up for any 4-H project. Almost all 4-H projects can be divided into these nine broad project areas:

- Animal Sciences
- Arts & Communication
- Community Involvement
- Cultural Projects
- Family, Home, & Health
- Outdoor Education (Natural Sciences)
- Plant & Soil Sciences
- STEM
- Start Your Own

A tenth project area is specifically for grades K-2, known as **Cloverbuds**. It is intended to be more developmentally appropriate for our youngest members.

4-H EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING MODEL



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

Reprinted with permission from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

More details about specific 4-H projects and statewide project learning opportunities can be found on our website: <https://4h.extension.wisc.edu/opportunities/projects/>

What resources are available?

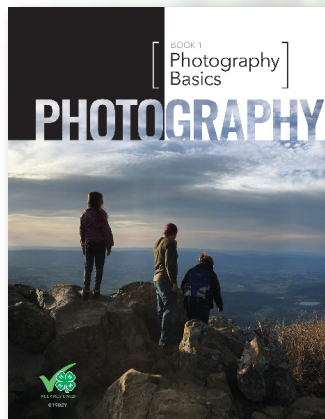
Each county's 4-H program differs in how project learning opportunities are offered. Some programs offer countywide, short-term workshops. Others may have countywide programs with set dates and meeting locations. Some 4-H clubs may have adults specifically devoted to certain project areas.

What if my county or club doesn't offer a project?

Anywhere can be a great place for project learning where a trusted adult or older youth serves as the teacher. Project curriculum is available for many of the projects from shop4-h.org or your local Extension office.

What is a project leader?

Project leaders provide a safe environment to learn about a project area in which they have experience. Adults can volunteer as a project leader to share their specialized skill set with youth!



Credit: Heidi Vanderloop Benson





Pick a Project!

Go through the list below and circle the letters of the things you like to do best. At the end, tally your results to find your major project areas of interest. For your first year, it's best to pick only one or two projects from your top major project area. You can always add more later!

H. I like to build with LEGOs	E. I like to sew	H. I like rockets
C. I like to help younger kids	F. I like learning about insects	G. I grow crops for my animals
H. I want to be an engineer	D. I enjoy my family traditions	B. I like to take pictures
G. I like fairy gardens	F. I like hunting	D. I want to learn about my own history
H. Rube Goldberg Machines interest me	E. I like to help around the house	H. I am interested in how robots work
C. I would like to be a camp counselor	A. I like to ride horses	B. I like puppets
A. I like taking care of sick or baby animals	B. I like to draw or do crafts	F. I care about the environment
B. I like to make scrapbooks	G. I want to have a flower garden	C. I like to lead and organize events
H: I like to work on engines	H. I want to learn about computers	E. I like to bake or cook
G. I want to learn how to grow vegetables	E. I would like to be a teacher	C. I want to be a leader
B. I like collecting things	H. I like radio-controlled cars	H: I like geography and maps
H. I am interested in outer space	F. I like being outdoors	A. I like snakes
E. I like babysitting	G: I like to garden	B. I like to act or sing
E. I like to decorate my room	H: I like to build things	C. I would like a project to help me find a future career
F. I like riding ATVs	H: I like to code	A. I like teaching my dog tricks

Totals: A: ___ B: ___ C: ___ D: ___ E: ___ F: ___ G: ___ H: ___

A: Animal Science

B: Arts & Communication

C: Community Involvement

D: Cultural Projects

E: Family, Home, & Health

F: Outdoor Education

G: Plant & Soil Sciences

H: STEM

Adapted from Ohio State University's "Making the Best 4-H Clubs Better, Version 2.0 Pick a Project," by Heidi Vanderloop Benson, Chippewa County 4-H Program Educator UW-Madison Division of Extension

Exploring 4-H for New Families is developed by Heidi Vanderloop Benson, Chippewa County 4-H Program Educator and Ben Hoppe, Brown County 4-H Program Educator, UW-Madison Division of Extension.

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.