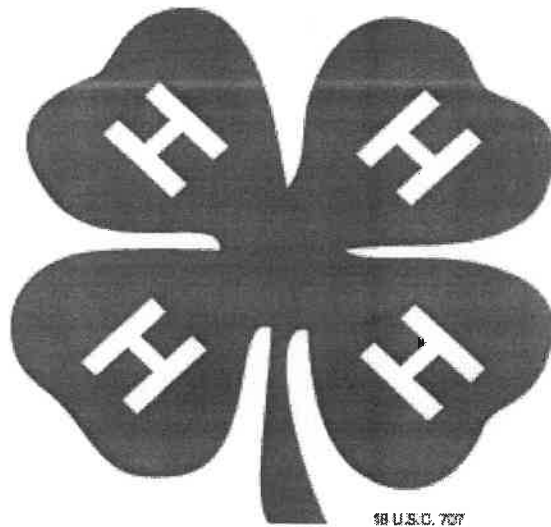


\$1.00

4H

CREATE YOUR OWN THING  
PROJECT



SR U.S.C. 727

HENDRICKS COUNTY

# CREATE YOUR OWN THING

## **Note to 4-H Parents, Leaders, and other interested adults:**

With adult guidance, young people can determine their own projects. This self-determined idea makes it possible to work on projects that may not be included in the current 4-H program. Such projects can develop from something in which the young person is interested, would like to do, or wants to learn about. This project idea encourages the maximum use and development of individual ability and creativity.

## **ABOUT THE PROJECT:**

The Create Your Own Thing (self-determined) 4-H Project is a new idea to the 4-H program. It lets you, the 4-H member, choose your own project area. You set your own objectives, determine a method of operation, and devise a reporting system.

There are two ways to choose self-determined projects:

- Take a different direction in some phase of an already existing project
- Develop a plan for a project not given in the list of county 4-H projects. examples: poetry, or Indian culture

You can use these pages as worksheets, but you might like to make up your own. At least one county workshop will be held so that you can discuss your project with others and also submit your Project Proposal Sheet. Your Create Your Own Thing Project Record Sheet should accompany your exhibit at the 4-H Fair.

## **LEVELS:**

### **Level 1: Grades 3-5 (January of current year)**

Exhibit your self-determined project. You may show, in any way you like, what you have accomplished in the project. Your project record sheet should accompany your exhibit.

### **Level 2: Grades 6-8 (January of current year)**

Exhibit your self-determined project. You may show, in any way you like, what you have accomplished in the project. Your project record sheet should accompany your exhibit.

### **Level 3: Grades 9-12 (January of current year)**

Exhibit your self-determined project. You may show, in any way you like, what you have accomplished in the project. Your project record sheet should accompany your exhibit.

**DECISION MAKING:**

It is important to learn how to make decisions, since you will be making them all your life. Selecting a worthwhile and interesting project will be an important decision. Start by making a list of your interests, needs, desires, and concerns. Include ideas or problems you would like to work on; something you would like to do, find out about, or learn; situations about which you feel strongly; ways in which you could be helpful to other people.

**RESOURCE PEOPLE:**

As you work on your list, ask about help and guidance from other people, such as friends, parents, teachers, scientists, farmers, craftsmen, business people, mechanics, artists, etc. Sometimes it is difficult to pinpoint your interests. Other people may help recognize your enthusiasms, abilities, or potential. They can help you see what you would like to do. Name some of the people you talked with. Tell how they helped you with ideas for your list:

---

---

---

---

**REASONS FOR MAKING A CHOICE:**

Try to have at least eight of your interests, needs, desires, or concerns on your list. Study this list for a while and then narrow it down to three items. You can list these three her:

---

---

---

Before choosing one of these ideas, consider these questions:

- What are your personal experiences and how will they help?
- How and where can you get information?
- How much is it going to cost?
- How worthwhile is the project going to be for you?
- What can you learn from your project?
- Who else will benefit from your work?
- What other things (such as school activities) will you be doing which may affect your time, energy, and abilities?
- Do you have someone who is willing to help and who knows something about what you want to learn?
- Will this help you decide your future career or help you in other ways in years to come?

**SELECT YOUR PROJECT:**

Using the suggested reasons for making a choice and using any other reasons that are relevant, list the idea you have chosen from the eight on your list and tell why you selected this project. My Project Choice and Reasons:

---

---

---

**YOUR PROJECT PLAN:**

You have chosen a project. There are no rules, goals, or literature except what you find or determine for yourself.

a) GOALS: To have a good project, you will have to set up some goals as a guide for your work. Examine your project and then list the things you want to learn and the things you want to do. List your goals here:

---

---

---

b) METHODS: You will need to determine as completely as possible how you will reach your goals. Find out what you need to do. Where can you get help? What resources do you need? What kinds of record keeping will help?

c) PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Now that you have given a good deal of thought to your project, goals, and methods, it might be a good idea to write a description of your project. Be sure to include these areas: How and why you choose the project; your goals, methods, procedures, tasks, responsibilities, and learning experiences you plan to use; and how to report the work you have accomplished.

## **DEVELOP YOUR PROJECT:**

You may want to do some of the following tasks to carry out your plans and develop your project:

- Review your project plans with other young people and with adults
- Ask people for help
- Make appointments with people, but respect their time
- Write for literature and materials
- Inquire about costs
- Subscribe to a magazine or other publications which will help you
- Go to libraries
- Find out what books, magazines or pamphlets they have that give information that relate to your project
- Clip information from newspapers and magazines
- Watch for help from radio and TV programs
- Ask to be included in meetings, tours, events and related activities
- Try out, experiment, investigate and do things that will aid learning

After developing your project, it would be good to review your plan with an adult and have it approved by him/her. This need not be your 4-H leader. It should be someone who is willing to give you help and guidance with the subject you have chosen. Please note that your Project Proposal sheet is due at the county workshop meeting to be held in the spring.

## **EVALUATE YOUR PROJECT:**

You can measure your progress or growth in terms of the goals you set at the beginning of your Create Your Own Thing project. To evaluate your progress, you will want to collect evidence of progress toward your goals.

- a) Pictures: Photography, colored slides and movies tell a story. You can take "before and after" pictures, or a series of pictures to show the steps of different stages in the development of your project.
- b) Illustrations: Make samples, models or objects relating to your project. Some projects lend themselves to growing, making or collecting. These examples of what you have done show how you have grown in your knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes.
- c) Record Keeping: You should keep records on paper measuring 8½ x 11 inches when possible. There are many kinds of records, such as diaries, outlines, stories, notebooks, tables, charts, drawings and pictures. You will have to decide which type of record is best for your project.

Whatever method you use, these questions may help you:

- How can you show the extent to which you are learning or accomplishing what you set out to do
- How can you describe or show what you did
- How can you show the information you have collected and the results of your work
- Is there any reason to show how you used your time and energy
- Do you need to keep track of money spent and received

### **SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE:**

Sharing with others can help you summarize, analyze and learn more about what you have accomplished in your project. Here are some ways of sharing with others what you have done.

- Give individual help to others
- Participate in workshops, programs and meetings or work with communities concerned about the same people
- Use demonstrations, illustrated talks, dramatic scenes or TV programs
- Go on tours and field trips
- Write newspaper articles and features in magazines

### **4-H FAIR:**

One excellent way to share your knowledge with others is to exhibit at the 4-H Fair. You may show in any way you like what you have accomplished in your Create Your Own Thing project. Be sure to include your Project Record sheet with your exhibit.

### **POSSIBLE TOPICS:**

- Hunting – gun safety and training
- Comparison buying – consumer education
- Music, dance, drama, literature, journalism
- Family history
- Study of sports, one particular sport, skill and for history
- Engineering
- Banking (example: bank services, what happens to a check, etc.)
- Money management, your personal budget and needs
- Lawn care, landscaping
- Career exploration
- Community studies – improvement (example: School Boards, County Government, State/Federal government)

# CREATE YOUR OWN THING PROJECT PROPOSAL SHEET

Year \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Club \_\_\_\_\_ Township \_\_\_\_\_

Years in 4-H \_\_\_\_\_ Years in Create Your Own Thing Project \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Leader's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

In this project I hope to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I will accomplish this by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

From this I hope to learn: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My exhibit will be: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What size will your exhibit be? \_\_\_\_\_





# CREATE YOUR OWN THING

## PROJECT RECORD SHEET

Year \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Township \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Club \_\_\_\_\_ Year in Club \_\_\_\_\_ Year in Project \_\_\_\_\_

4-H Leader's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Demonstrations \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Judgings \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you enroll in this project? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What new things have you learned through this project? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How much money have you invested in this project? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How can you use what you have learned in this project to help others? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_