



2026 LAGRANGE COUNTY



Mini 4-H HANDBOOK





Viviana Guzman-
Extension Educator- Health & Human
Sciences
vguzman@purdue.edu

Jeff Burbrink
Extension Educator- Ag & Natural
Resources
jburbrink@purdue.edu

Vicki Gilliland - Office Manager
vgillila@purdue.edu

Emily Anders-
Administrative Assistant
ande1970@purdue.edu

Extension Office-
Office: 206-499-6334
Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
114 West Michigan Street
LaGrange, Indiana 46761
Website:

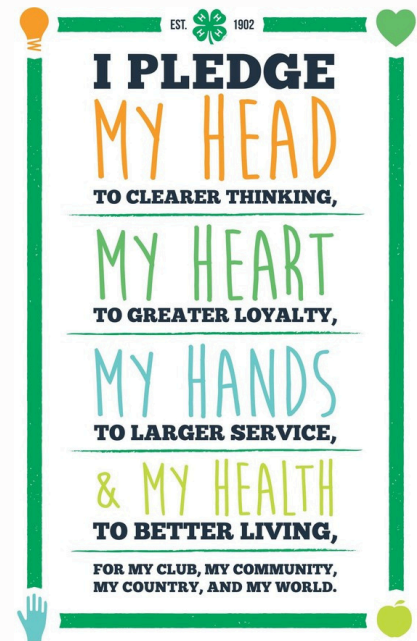
<https://extension.purdue.edu/county/lagrange/>

4-H Mission & Vision

The Indiana 4-H Youth Development mission is to provide real-life educational opportunities that develop young people who positively impact their community and world. Indiana 4-H Youth Development strives to be the premier, community-based program empowering young people to reach their full potential.

Pledge to the Flag

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.



4-H Motto

"To make the best better"

4-H Colors

Green & White

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Important Dates:

October 1: Enrollment Opens Enrollment is done every year, and there is a \$15 annual program fee to join LaGrange County 4-H. This enrollment fee is a state fee that helps provide the 4-Her accident insurance and covers some of the cost of running the 4-H program.

January 15: Enrollment Closes The enrollment window for 4-H “technically” closes on January 15th. We do, however, accept enrollments much later than that. Having your enrollment in by January 15th ensures that you receive all the communication, emails, and postcards from our office.

May 15

Livestock enrollment Deadline. This is a State Deadline. No animals will be entered into 4honline after this date.

LaGrange 4-H Fair, July 11-18, 2026

Fair schedule in following pages

FairEntry Deadline- June 1-30

LaGrange County 4-H Clubs and Leaders

Project Clubs:

Township Clubs:

Springfield Sidewinders

℘

Panther Pack

(Mini 4-H Members)

Deb Lewis

(260) 351-2722

Stroh Sunny Spotlighters

Jeff and LeAnn Anders

260-351-1535

Stroh Straight Shooters

Barbara Howe

260-499-1571

Topeka Happy Workers

Tad Hite

happyworkers4h@gmail.com

Dog

Sharritta Lawson-Carpenter

260-336-4211

Horse & Pony

Benjamin Beard

260-336-2807

Livestock

Cierra Young

260-499-1649

Junior Leaders

Vivi Guzman

260-499-6334

Emily Anders

260-499-6334

Shooting Sports

Dennis Kratz

260-367-1088



WHAT IS MINI 4-H?

Mini 4-H is a program designed to encourage positive development of children, Kindergarten through second grade. The goal of Mini 4-H is to help young children explore friendships outside the family, explore the way in which things work, practice both small and large muscle control, and think about the ways people work together on projects.

NO STATE FAIR EXHIBIT

The NON-COMPETITIVE learning environment for Mini 4-H includes:

- Planned learning activities in which children are invited to be active and explore materials and ideas without the pressure of completing a specific product or exhibit.
- The low adult/leader to child ratio allows time for adults/leaders to provide individual, positive encouragement and assistance.

1. Simple, interesting activities that are fun.
2. Encourage children to participate in a group activity by sharing and/or displaying their activity projects.
3. Rewards that are identical and/or ribbons of the same color for everyone.

There is no limit to the number of projects youth can sign up for; however, we suggest starting out with one or two in your first year.

Judging Information

4-H Fair Judging In LaGrange County, we practice open judging. 4-H members have the opportunity to have an open conversation with the judge. It is a great learning experience where you can ask questions and obtain constructive criticism and genuine praise regarding your project and your efforts. Parents are not permitted to speak with the judges during open judging.

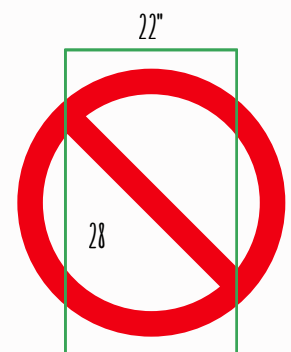
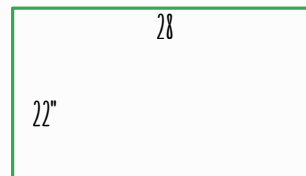
Youth may be asked questions such as:

- What new things did you learn?
- Have you taken this project before?
- How much time did you spend on this project?
- What were your goals for this project?
- What would you like to change about your exhibit?
- Tell me something about this exhibit that you want me to know.
- What did you like best (or least) about this project?
- Did you do this exhibit at school, or was it in a workshop setting?
- Did you have any difficulty with this exhibit, or do you have any questions I may be able to answer?

Poster Information

Poster Board:

- Use white or experiment with other colors.
- Example being use earthy tones for a Wildlife poster.
- Posters should be HORIZONTAL not vertical.
- Posters are 22" x 28"



Mounting Adhesives:

BEST Option

- Rubber Cement- leaves no marks and doesn't wrinkle paper

Other Options:

- Double sticky tape for leaves or other natural materials
- Photo adhesive squares, tape, dots, etc., for pictures, especially Photography Posters

Stiff Backing:

- Any material that will keep your poster from bending
- Cardboard, Plywood, Masonite- visit your local arts and crafts store; they will most likely have something

Clear Plastic Covering:

- You can pick up Clear Plastic Sleeves from the Extension Office for a small fee
- Local Arts & Crafts or Hardware stores may have something useful

Lettering:

- Stencils, self-adhesive or press type, WordArt
- LEAVE the bottom Right Hand Corner Open for exhibit tags
- Always have clean hands and work in a clean area
- Lay everything out BEFORE gluing.

4-H Online vs. FairEntry



When do we need to use them?
Why do we use them both?

4-H Online

FairEntry

Who?

- Parents/ Families
- ALL 4-H Members
- ALL Program Volunteers
- Specialty Groups

Who?

- 4-H Fair Exhibitors
- Superintendents
- Fair Judges
- Check-in Volunteers
- Media Outlets for Fair Results

What?

- Animal Identification
- Selecting project areas to explore.
- 4-H Trips and other events
- 4-H Scholarships Application
- Club rosters for 4-H Leaders

What?

- Preparation for county fair
- County Fair Project Labels
- State Fair Qualifying Entries
- Livestock Show Bills
- Organization of Fair Results

When?

From start to end of the program year: October through September.

When?

Fair Season: Typically May through August

Where?

<https://v2.4honline.com/>

Where?

Direct link provided by county office
or
<https://fairent.com/Public/FindYourFair>

Why?

- To express interest in the 4-H Program
- Improved communication between County and State and 4-H Families

Why?

- Prepare for county and state fair
- Get accurate numbers for project display purposes, and stall assignments



Extension - 4-H Youth Development



Purdue University is an equal opportunity employer.

4-H online is used to enroll into the 4-H program. You will use 4-H online every year to enroll into 4-H. Once your mini becomes a 3rd grader you will still use 4-H online to enroll and pay your 4-H enrollment fee.

FairEntry is used to specify exactly what you plan to bring to the fair. Many projects have multiple categories within a single project area. Entering your specific project into FairEntry allows for all the proper documentation to be ready for your 4-H'er so their project is judged in the proper category. FairEntry is not required for Mini 4-H'ers but it is available. We suggest using it, so that when it is required, you and your 4-H'er will be FairEntry pros!

If you have questions about either 4-H Online or FairEntry, please contact the LaGrange County Extension Office so we can help!

Mini 4-H Non-Competitive Policy

Mini 4-H is a program designed to encourage positive development of children, Kindergarten through second grade. The goal of Mini 4-H is to help young children explore friendships outside the family, explore the way in which things work, practice both small and large muscle control, and think about the ways people work together on projects. The NON-COMPETITIVE learning environment for Mini 4-H includes:

1. Planned learning activities in which children are invited to be active and explore materials and ideas without the pressure of completing a specific product or exhibit.
2. Low adult leader-to-child ratio that allows time for adults/leaders to provide individual, positive encouragement and assistance.
3. Simple, interesting activities that are fun.
4. Encouragement of children to participate in a group activity by sharing and or displaying their activity projects.
5. Rewards that are identical and/or ribbons of the same color for everyone.

DO NOT JUDGE projects, but instead, discuss them with the child. Note: Purdue University and the Indiana 4-H Youth Development Program do not support, endorse, or encourage programming for children prior to Kindergarten. 4-H Youth Development Extension staff members and 4-H Volunteers may not offer or encourage others to offer programming for children prior to Kindergarten.

Safety Policy for Mini 4-H Members:

- The safety and well-being of our 4-H youth is of the utmost importance. Although kindergarten is specified as the time when a child may begin participation in some 4-H events and activities, parents are encouraged to take into consideration their child's physical and mental development before agreeing to let the child begin to show, work with, or care for animals.
- Each child matures at a different rate, and children in grades K-2 may still be too young to begin showing, working with, or caring for animals.
- The Indiana 4-H Youth Development Program at Purdue University has agreed to allow Mini 4-H members in grades K-2, to participate in NON-COMPETITIVE animal projects subject to certain conditions. These conditions are specified as..
- Mini 4-H members in grades K through 2 will be allowed to show, work with, or care for animal projects after their parent or legal guardian has signed a liability release. Mini 4-H members may independently show, work with, or care for animals that weigh 300 pounds or less. Mini 4-H members may only show, work with, or care for animals over 300 pounds when they are assisted by a parent, legal guardian, or another adult designated in writing by parent or legal guardian." (The word assisted means that the adult has control of the animal at all times.)
- Mini 4-H members exhibiting horses must wear ASTM or SEI standard F1163 (or above) certified helmets whenever mounted. The parent/guardian is responsible to see that this specified headgear is properly fitted with the approved harness in place and fastened whenever a rider is mounted. If the guidelines stated in this policy are not followed for a particular event or activity, then such event or activity shall not be considered to be a 4-H event or activity and shall not be under the auspices of Extension 4-H Educators or covered by Purdue University.



Mini 4-H Helper

Welcome to the Mini 4-H Program! Mini 4-H is designed for children in grades K-2 to explore a variety of project activity areas and to interact with caring adults and other children.

Children receive this project activity manual when they enroll in Mini-4-H. This manual, and the manuals on various other topics, will provide fun, age-appropriate learning activities throughout their year(s) in Mini 4-H.

As a Mini 4-H adult helper, your job will be to guide and encourage each child through the activities. A wide range of activities is provided to allow you to choose the ones most appropriate for the children you are working with. It is strongly suggested that you do not complete the activities for them. Instead, help them, guide them, work with them, and let them do all that they possibly can. 4-H believes in allowing children to learn by doing. The Mini 4-H project activities are hands-on learning opportunities designed to provide a meaningful educational experience for youth.

Additionally, the Mini 4-H program is set up to allow children to display a project activity that is based upon information in this manual. Some children may want to exhibit at the 4-H Fair. The 4-H Fair is an exciting week that allows community youth to showcase their enthusiasm for learning. Children may choose to display a project activity they did by themselves or one they did with a group. Other children may choose to showcase their work in other ways, such as displaying it in a special place in their own home.

Mini 4-H is fun! Children will certainly enjoy it. You can have fun too, by guiding and helping as children participate in the program. Encourage and praise the children as they have fun learning and sharing with you. If you have any questions regarding Mini 4-H or other 4-H programs, please contact the Extension office in your county.

The Mini 4-H program can be used with individual children, but it works best when used in a group of 2 or more children. Children working cooperatively in groups develop positive images of themselves and their ideas. Other ways adult helpers can maximize the benefits of Mini 4-H are to:

- Work on a subject interesting to the child by encouraging children to choose the content area. Look through this manual and choose the project activities based on the interests and skill levels of the children.
- Relax and have fun. Some children will want to finish their activities, others may not. There is no need to pressure children of this age to finish an activity, because the real learning takes place while they participate in the activity and interact with others. The finished product should not be the main focus. The knowledge children gain while they explore new areas and experiment with new ideas should be the primary goal.
- Remain flexible and adapt to the changing needs of the children. Restlessness or boredom may indicate a need to stop the activity and come back to it later.
- Encourage children to talk and work with each other. Children learn best when they are encouraged to freely share their reactions and observations. You may want to ask the children about what they did during an activity, what happened, what was the most difficult, what was the easiest, and what they liked the most.

This manual contains activities for children that allow for a wide range of abilities and provide practice for developing a variety of skills. Many of the projects have additional things to do listed after the activity in the stretchers section. This section provides ideas to adapt the activity to better match children's individual skill levels and also provides additional skill practice.

Mini 4-H'er

Mini 4-H'ers have lots of fun! There are many activities for you to explore. You can try new things. You can share them with your friends and family.

Here are some things to know about 4-H.

- The 4-H symbol is a four-leaf clover with an "H" in each leaf. Clover is a plant that grows in fields, yards, and along roadsides. Most clovers have three leaves. Sometimes, if you look very carefully, you may get lucky and find a special clover with four leaves. A four-leaf clover is used as the symbol for 4-H to let everyone know 4-H is a special kind of group.

- The 4-H colors are green and white. The four-leaf clover is green, and the “H” in each leaf is white. A group motto is a saying that tells people what is important to the group.
- The 4-H motto is “To make the best better.” When something is better than all of the others, it is the best. Think about a time when you did your best. Maybe you threw a ball farther than you have ever thrown it before. Now, think about some ways you could do better. You may be able to throw farther by practicing for a while or by watching someone who can throw farther than you to see how they throw so far. Even if you throw the ball farther than you have ever thrown it before, there are still ways that you can do better the next time. 4-H encourages you to always try to do better, even if you are doing the best you have ever done.



Arts & Crafts

Dinosaurs

Forestry

Models

Reading

Trees

Bugs and More Bugs

Farm Animals & Livestock

Gardening

My Pet & Me

Sewing

Wildlife

Collections

Foods

Health

Plants & Flowers

Sun, Space, & Stars

Livestock Showmanship

Bugs and More Bugs

Almost anywhere you look you can find bugs. Some bugs crawl on the ground, and some bugs fly in the air. Most bugs are outside, but some bugs might be in your house. There are bugs that have lots of color and are easy to see. Other bugs look like the things around them and are very hard to see. Some bugs make noises, and some bugs are so quiet you may not even know they are around.

Most bugs are insects. An insect has 3 body parts and 6 legs. The 3 body parts are called the head, thorax, and abdomen. The head is the first part. The head usually has the eyes and the feelers or antennae. The thorax is the middle part where all 6 legs are attached. The abdomen is the very last part. The abdomen is like your tummy. If the bug is a girl, the abdomen is the part of the insect that contains the eggs.

What to Exhibit

This is a list of project activities that can be shown at the 4-H fair or other places. Pick a project activity you would like to try. You do not have to make them in any order. If you have any questions, please call the Extension Office. There are people there who can help you.

- Make a poster of an insect or spider. Label the body parts.
- Draw a picture of a butterfly. Be sure to make the designs on the wings symmetrical.
- Make a poster or a book showing some of the ways bugs protect themselves. Make a project activity as a group and take it to the fair to show the kinds of things your group has been doing.
- Make a scrapbook of pictures showing your group having fun while making the project activities in this manual.
- Make a poster showing several kinds of bugs on one half and several kinds of spiders on the other half. You may want to draw the pictures or you may want to cut them from magazines.
- Make several kinds of bugs. Use them to make a mobile of moving creepy crawlies.
- Make several kinds of bugs. Use them to make a mobile of moving creepy crawlies.
- Use a shoebox to encourage children to create a diorama for their bug. Use things from nature to make it realistic.

- Make several kinds of bugs. Use them to make a mobile of moving creepy crawlies.
- Use a shoebox to encourage children to create a diorama for their bug. Use things from nature to make it realistic.

Collections

This project is designed to help children gain the skills necessary to understand and fully participate in collecting. Children need to be able to identify how items are the same and how they are different. They also need to be able to sort and group items. The first few activities in this manual focus on these skills.

How to Display

You can display your collection in many ways. Be creative! You can make a poster or a scrapbook, use a shoe or cigar box, and egg cartons work great, too! Are your items very small? Try plastic bags or bottles. Anything will work if it helps keep your collection neat and clean!

Remember, do not take things for your collection unless you get permission first. Be sure to keep any small things from your collection up and out of the reach of little children. Your parents will be able to help you decide where to keep your collection.

What to Exhibit

This is a list of project activities that can be shown at the 4-H Fair or other places. Pick a project activity you would like to try. You do not have to make them in any order. If you have any questions, please call the Extension Office. There are people there who can help you.

- Collect and exhibit 5 items or 5 pairs of items. If you take a collection to the fair more than one year, add 5 more articles to your collection each year.
 - These articles can be rocks, coins, insects, salt-and pepper-shakers, pencils, or any kind of fun collection.
 - Attach a card that tells what you are collecting and why you collected the items.
- Go to a museum and look around at the collection of things.
 - Draw a picture of the collection you liked best.
 - Try to find out why museums collect stuff. List some things that they collect.
 - Ask someone who works at a museum how they get things for their collections.
 - What is the most unusual collection you saw? (If a museum is not in your home area, try the library.)
- Talk to family and friends. Ask them what they like to collect and why they like to collect it. Then make a chart to show your information.
- Make a project activity as a group and take it to the fair to show the kinds of things your group has been doing.
- Make a scrapbook of pictures showing your group having fun while making the project activities in this manual.

Crafts

This project will help you learn to read directions, choose a craft, be neat, and be creative.

What to Exhibit

Choose one project each year from the list and bring it to the 4-H Fair judging.

- Splatter Painting
- Beaded Necklace
- Decoupage
- Hand Print
- Drawing
- Craft Kit
- Dress the Clown
- Seed Picture
- Gift Bag
- Your Creative Craft

Dinosaurs

Dinosaurs were very large animals that lived on Earth 200 million years ago. We do not know for sure what they looked like. We can guess from their bones and fossils what shape and size they might have been. Most people say that they looked like giant lizards.

What to Exhibit

This is a list of project activities that can be shown at the 4-H Fair. Pick a project activity you would like to exhibit at the fair.

- Make a fossil cast. Use something that will make a fossil that might have been around 200 million years ago. (Example bones, leaves, and twigs)
- Find four pictures of dinosaurs. Answer these questions for each picture. you can use the dinosaurs in your manual. Put the pictures and information in a self-made notebook.
 - * Name of dinosaur
 - * Weight of dinosaur
 - * Size of dinosaur
 - * Type of dinosaur
- Make a poster that shows how big dinosaurs were. Draw a picture of yourself, your house, your school, and your favorite dinosaur. Answer these questions for each thing.
 - * Name of thing
 - * Size of thing
- Make a model of your favorite dinosaur. You can use the model materials of your choice.

Farm Animals

There are many kinds of farm animals. People have farm animals for fun and to make money. Do you have a farm animal at home? What is it? What kind of farm animal do you think might be fun to have?

Here are some animals we see on a farm

- Beef Cows
- Chickens
- Pigs
- Dairy Cows
- Rabbits
- Horses
- Goats
- Sheep

What to Exhibit

Here is a list of projects that can be shown at the fair. Choose one project each year from the list and bring it to the 4-H Fair judging.

- Write a story about your favorite farm animal
- Make a poster showing the different things that farm animals make for us. (for example, eggs, wool, hamburgers, etc.)

Foods

You will learn some fun and important food facts by doing activities in your manual. Try to finish all of them by your last year in Mini 4-H. You will learn how to measure and cook easy recipes. You will learn about kitchen safety and good nutrition.

What to Exhibit

Here is a list of projects you can exhibit at the fair. Choose one project each year from the list and bring it to the 4-H Fair judging.

- A peanut butter sandwich cut into two or four pieces. Use two slices of bread, peanut butter, and your choice of an added ingredient.
- Popcorn snack displayed in a small plastic sandwich bag. Start with popped corn and add other ingredients to make it your own.

- Two no-bake cookies using the recipe in your manual.
- Display a poster you made that shows at least three kitchen safety rules.
- Display a poster you made that shows the food pyramid
- Two Marshmallow Treat squares using the recipe from your manual.

Forestry

Do you like to take walks in the park or sit under trees in the summer? Have you seen animals or birds that make their homes in trees? Can you find things made of wood around your home? If you have questions about trees and how trees help us, Mini 4-H Forestry is for you!

Forestry is the study of trees. There are many different kinds of trees. Some trees grow fruit or nuts on them while other trees have colorful leaves and sweet smelling flowers. Each kind of tree is different and each tree has special jobs to do. A walnut tree grows walnuts that can be eaten by animals and people. A pine tree's leaves don't fall off in the winter so these trees can shield buildings from the wind and snow. Oak trees grow tall and have a lot of big branches so they are perfect for keeping the sun off of people, animals, and houses all summer long.

Trees also help us have fun. We can play in piles of leaves, swing from a tire tied to a tree limb, or build a tree house in a tree's branches high above the ground. Trees do a lot of important things that help people and people can do a lot to help trees, also. You will find out some of the ways trees and people can work together in your project activity manual.

What to Exhibit

This is a list of project activities that can be shown at the 4-H Fair. Pick a project activity you would like to exhibit at the fair.

- Make a project activity as a group and take it to the fair to show the kinds of things your group has been doing.
- Make a scrapbook of pictures showing your group having fun while making the project activities in this manual.
- Visit a lumberyard. Observe the many different types of wood. How is the wood stored? What sounds do you hear? What kinds of smells do you notice? Talk to one of the workers to find out what they do. Draw a picture of what you found out.
- Make a poster with pictures of your group planting a tree.
- Make an art collage out of things collected on a walk in the woods. You can do this by yourself or you can do this as a group mural.
- Go on an alphabet scavenger hunt. Look for things in the forest that begin with each letter of the alphabet. Make an alphabet book using the items you find.
- Make a poster or book showing things people can do to help trees or showing things people use that come from trees.
- Write a story or poem about your favorite tree

Gardening

Do you ever wonder where different vegetables or flowers come from? Would you like to see things grow? Gardening involves planting a seed in the soil and watching it grow. It needs water, light, air, food, and room to grow.

What to Exhibit

This is a list of project activities that can be shown at the 4-H Fair. Pick a project activity you would like to exhibit at the fair.

- Your exhibit will be one plant in a pot (no larger than 10 inches in diameter). You must have taken care of your plant for at least the last two months before judging.
- A chia pet you have grown can be substituted for the potted plant
- A plate with a maximum of three vegetables
- A scrapbook of pictures of different types of vegetables. Label each vegetable with its name.

Health

Explore activities that help with decision-making, learning to learn, and mastering physical skills.

What to Exhibit

Create a poster or notebook that covers what you have learned in an activity from your health manual

Models

Do you like to make things? Do you see things and ask how they were made? Many of us like to make things.

A model is a small version of a real-life thing. Many of us like to make models of cars, boats, planes, tanks, and buildings.

Making a model can take time.

What to Exhibit

This is a list of project activities that can be shown at the 4-H Fair. Pick a project activity you would like to exhibit at the fair.

- Make a snap-together plastic model - Do not glue or paint your model
- Make a model made out of clay or popsicle sticks
- Make a model using two to four different items of your choice. - Examples: clay, toothpicks, sticks, ceramic, sugar cubes, etc.
- Visit a museum and look around at different models. Write a short report on your visit. Here are some things that you might want to put in your report.
 - * What kind of models did you see?
 - * Ask someone who works at the museum how they build their models. Or do they buy the models already done?
 - * What was your favorite model? Why did you like this model? How big was the model? How big would real-life items be?
- Make a model using as many different items of your choice. Make a model background to display your model. For example, paint a shoebox so that a plastic model car looks like it is driving down the road, across the field, through the water or the air.

My Pet & Me

Do you ever wonder about the animals that live in your home? Would you like to share with others how and where they live? There are so many fun things to do to get to know your pet, indoors and out, every month of the year.

My Pet & Me involves watching your special pet all around your home. Luckily, you won't need much in the way of equipment to enjoy sharing your special pet with us. You already have the most important tools- your eyes, ears, nose, and hands!

What to Exhibit

This is a list of project activities that can be shown at the 4-H Fair. Pick a project activity you would like to exhibit at the fair.

Make your own scrapbook or poster about your special pet. You may want to include these things:

- My Name is...
- I am this old...
- My pet is a
- My pet's name....
- My pet is this old....
- My pet likes to eat this food...
- My pet sleeps in a...
- I like my pet because...
- A funny story about my pet would be...

Plants & Flowers

Plants are living things that grow. We see plants all around us. Inside your house, you might have "house plants." These plants grow in small pots inside a building. Most plants grow outside your house. Plants need special things to grow.

They need sunlight, water, and food found in the soil. They also breathe a special kind of air called carbon dioxide.

Carbon dioxide is a gas that people exhale or breathe out of their lungs. Without these things, a plant will not live very long, just like you need water, food, and oxygen.

What to Exhibit

This is a list of project activities that can be shown at the 4-H Fair. Pick a project activity you would like to exhibit at the fair.

- Three cut flowers in a vase. The flowers can be the same kind or different kinds. Attach a small label that tells the kind of flower
-
- A flowering plant in a pot. Attach a small label that tells the kind of flowering plant.
- A house plant. Attach a small label that tells the kind of plant
- A cacti. Attach a small label that tells the kind of cacti.
- Exhibit a colored flower (Activity 6 from the manual)
- Make a poster that shows the different parts of a plant.
- Find at least three pictures of flowers. Write the name of the flower next to it. You can use flowers from the manual. Put the pictures in a self-made notebook.
- Make a plant maze. Bring the shoebox maze with the plant inside. (Activity 3 in the manual)

Reading

Reading is a good way for families to build valuable literacy skills together. Mini 4-H'ers should read books of their choice and selections from the Indiana Recommended Reading List, which is included in the manual. Books that are read by parents and older siblings are equally important for the youngsters to benefit from this project.

What to Exhibit

This is a list of project activities that can be shown at the 4-H Fair. Pick a project activity you would like to exhibit at the fair.

- Make a poster about a favorite book
- Make a poster that would encourage people to read
- Design a book jacket for a favorite book
- Make a map that shows the locations of favorite stories from one land or from around the world.
- Make a scrapbook, chart, or poster of interesting words or expressions found in a book.
- Make a puppet or mask of a favorite book character using inexpensive materials like Paper Mache, old socks, paper bags, etc.

Before You Sew

There were several challenges to creating this sewing-related activity guide for children ages kindergarten through second grade. Because of these challenges, this activity guide may be a little different from many of the other "sewing guides" you have seen or used in the past. Most sewing activities focus primarily on the end product. However, children of this age are process-oriented, meaning that they are interested in participating in the activity far more than they are interested in what the final product is or how it looks. Art has a variety of materials that invite children to enjoy and explore the creation process. Did you know that sewing is a form of art? In fact, art and sewing have many things in common. Color, line, shape, and texture are just a few of the ideas that are important in both art and sewing. Before You Sew uses art activities to introduce sewing skills and concepts. Children are encouraged to explore the art activities. By doing so, the children practice sewing skills like following a pattern, cutting, lacing, measuring, stitching, stuffing, and weaving.

Sewing requires good eye-hand coordination and refined fine-motor skills to use the necessary sewing tools. There is a wide range of skills and abilities within any group of children ages kindergarten through second grade. Some children of this age are highly skilled in handling small objects, cutting along a given line, and/or manipulating several objects simultaneously. However, some children are far less skilled and may become frustrated if asked to perform at a level they are not yet comfortable. This activity guide is designed so that the activities that require the least skill and allow successful participation by most children of this age are toward the front. The activities toward the end of the guide generally require a higher skill level to accomplish.

Before You Sew can be used to encourage children to explore art activities, share important sewing concepts with children, and invite children to practice important sewing skills. A positive experience with this guide can help ensure that children are ready to participate in and enjoy future sewing-related activities.

What to Exhibit

This is a list of project activities that can be shown at the 4-H Fair. Pick a project activity you would like to exhibit at the fair.

Make a project activity as a group and take it to the Fair to show what your group has been doing.

Make a scrapbook of pictures showing your group having fun while doing the project activities in this manual.

Make a group quilt by lacing several sets of the quilt square initials together.

Make one of the project activities in this guide.

–Fringe a Scarf –Quilt Square Initials –Tic-Tac-Toe Weaving –Stitch the Mouse –Straight-Line Patterns –Connect-a-Pattern –Flight Pattern

Sun, Stars, & Space

Have you ever thought about what you want to be when you grow up? Have you ever thought about being an explorer? Does it sound like fun to travel to places that few people have ever been before? If so, have you ever thought about going into space? In this manual, you will find out some things about exploring space.

What to Exhibit

This is a list of project activities that can be shown at the 4-H Fair. Pick a project activity you would like to exhibit at the fair.

- Make a poster or a group mural of space. Be sure to include some constellations.
- Design and make your own rocket using materials around your house, like paper towel tubes and construction paper.
- Make a poster or a book showing what you have discovered about astronauts.
- Make a project activity as a group and take it to the fair to show what your group has been doing.
- Make a scrapbook of pictures showing your group having fun while making the project activities in this manual
- Make the star constellation of your choice using two different techniques from this manual, or make up your own method.
- Write a short poem about what you think it would be like to explore space. Design a space cover for your poem

Trees

Can you name the tree a leaf came from just from the shape of the leaf? Do you know how to tell how old a tree is? Have you ever wondered how trees get food and water? If you want to learn the answers to these questions and many more, Mini 4-H Trees is for you!

Trees come in many shapes and sizes. Some trees are tall, some trees are short, some trees have lots of branches, and some trees have only a few branches. Some trees are shaped like triangles. Other trees have a round or oval shape. Sometimes, people change the shape of trees by pruning or cutting the tree's branches. Tree branches are pruned to remove dead or deformed branches. People also use pruning to make a tree grow a certain way. The shapes of trees that have been pruned can be very unusual. Pruned trees can be in the shape of a square or many circles, like the pictures below. They can even be in the shape of an animal or person. When trees or shrubs are cut into different shapes, it is called topiary. Have you ever visited trees with unusual shapes? Have you ever seen pictures of trees with unusual shapes? What tree shape did you like the best? Why?

What to Exhibit

This is a list of project activities that can be shown at the 4-H Fair. Pick a project activity you would like to exhibit at the fair.

- Make a project activity as a group and take it to the fair to show the kinds of things your group has been doing
- Make a scrapbook of pictures showing your group having fun while doing the project activities in this manual.
- Draw a picture of the ways your favorite tree looks in each of the four seasons.
- Make a collage of pictures cut from magazines. Show as many different kinds of trees as you can find. See if you can find at least one picture of a tree with an unusual shape.
- Take a walk in a local park. Collect things that have fallen from trees onto the ground. Make a tree-shaped poster and glue all the things you found onto the poster. Be sure to match the items with the part of the tree where they are found.
- Make a leaf rubbing book using five leaves you find that you think are interesting. To make the leaf rubbings, place each leaf on a flat surface with the vein side up. Next, place a piece of paper over the leaf and use the side of a crayon to rub color over it. Label each page with the leaf name.

Wildlife

Do you ever wonder about the animals that live in the woods and open areas around your home or city? Would you like to know about how and where they live? The world of wildlife is exciting! There are so many fun things to do to get to know wildlife, indoors and out, every month of the year.

Wildlife adventures involve watching wild animals and birds that live near our homes. It also involves building shelters, creating your own critter, making a nature mobile, and learning what type of tracks animals leave behind. Luckily, you don't need much equipment to enjoy wildlife. You already have the most important tools- your eyes, ears, nose, and hands.

There are some rules to keep in mind when exploring. Ask permission before you wander onto someone's property. Do not pick plants or flowers or tamper with nature or fences in any way. Treat wildlife habitats with great care. Don't just turn over rocks or logs. Animals may live in those places! Take your time to experience wildlife. There is so much we can learn.

What to Exhibit

This is a list of project activities that can be shown at the 4-H Fair. Pick a project activity you would like to exhibit at the fair.

- Birds Poster
- Birds Mobile
- Bird Feeder
- Paper Airplane
- Three Insects
- Bird Watching Chart Poster
- Animal Characteristics Poster

Livestock Showmanship

During each livestock show, there is a class for Mini 4-H Showmanship. To be involved in this, your mini must sign up for the class in 4-H online and FairEntry so that the proper superintendent knows how many to expect in said class. Each mini is required to contact a 4-H'er that is enrolled in the species your mini wishes to show to have an animal to show since minis are NOT allowed to bring their own animal. It is recommended that you meet with the 4-H'er so that your mini has some experience with the animal they wish to show. This helps keep everyone involved safer as the livestock animal is acquainted with the mini as well.

Livestock Superintendents:

Beef- Curtis Sherman

Dairy Beef/ Started Calf - Roy Howe

Draft Horse - Brandee Hoffman

Meat Goat - Glen Miller

Rabbit - Paige Courtright

Swine - Todd Bontreger

Dairy - Theresa Noll

Dairy Goats - Jeff Anders

Horse & Pony - Linda Burkhead

Poultry -

Sheep - Erin Sherman

If you need help contacting a 4-H'er or superintendent, please contact the LaGrange County Extension Office, we can help!

Mini Camp

Every year in June, the LaGrange County Junior Leaders put together a Mini Camp for our Mini 4-H'ers. The program is for a few hours on a Saturday. Watch the newsletter, Facebook, and for a postcard about the event. We hope to see you all there!