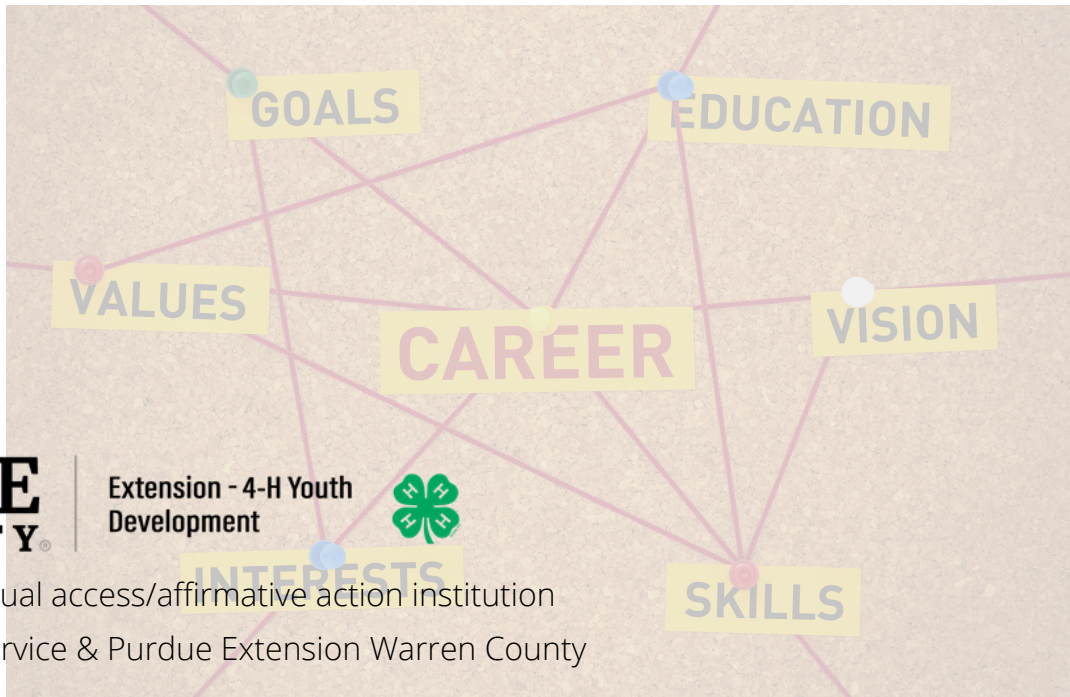


LaPorte County Do Your Own Thing Guidelines



Extension - 4-H Youth Development



PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Purdue is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution

Adapted from NDSU Extension Service & Purdue Extension Warren County

Do Your Own Thing



Project Description

The Do Your Own Thing project was designed to allow you the opportunity to select an area that is of interest to you (i.e., astrology, music, auto mechanics, career exploration, etc.) and also a chance to participate in a project that is no longer be included in the current 4-H program. This particular project encourages the use and development of individual abilities and creativity.

Project Guidelines

1. You can determine your own project provided it does not duplicate any guidelines in an existing project offered in LaPorte County.
2. A completed project proposal sheet must be turned in by April 15th in order to get project approval by County Extension Educator.

Exhibit Guidelines

1. It can be a display, notebook or poster. If the display is larger than 2' x 3' x 3' or is valuable, you may bring it to judging along with a poster or notebook describing how and what was made. The project will be taken home the day of judging however, the notebook or poster will be on display during fair week.
2. The Do Your Own Thing proposal sheet along with the record sheet MUST accompany the project at the fair.

Exhibit Class Guidelines:

The project will be divided into the following levels:

- a. Beginner (grades 3-5 suggested)
- b. Intermediate (grades 6-8 suggested)
- c. Advanced (grades 9-12 suggested)

Selecting Your Project

You already may have a topic in mind to study. Before you make the final decision, you may want to think about all the possibilities. Make an inventory of your interests, needs, dreams and concerns. Include everything that "could be" a Do Your Own Thing project. From this list, you can identify which topic to choose for your self-study.

These definitions will help clarify what each term means:

- Interest:** An interest is something that excites your feelings and gains your attention or curiosity. It causes you to say, "Oh, I'd like to do that!"
- Need:** A need is something you, your family or community seems to want or require. You say, "Yes, I can see doing that is necessary."
- Dream:** A dream causes you to think, "I really want to try to accomplish that."
- Concern:** A concern is something that could affect the welfare or happiness of your family, club, community or world. A concern means, "I really care about that and I could do something about it."

Once you have identified a topic, you will need to complete a project proposal sheet and turn it in to the Extension Educator for approval of your topic. After receiving approval, you will need to find a project helper to talk to or assist as you work on this topic. Then go ahead and develop a plan.

Developing Your Plan

When you have selected one topic for your Do Your Own Thing project, the following questions may help you develop your plan and project goals.

- Why do I want to do this? What will I learn?
- Where will I go to find information and resources (libraries, school, Internet, experts in my community, magazines)?
- Who could help me in planning or carrying out the project?
- What personal experience have I had in this area?
- How long will completing my project goals take? How much will it cost?

Planning My Project Goals

Plan your project goals for this year. Discuss your goals with a parent/guardian and 4-H or project leader. Think about how you could teach others and get involved in your community through this project, too.

Things I plan to do in this project	Target dates	Who will help me	Completion date
<hr style="width: 100%; border: none; border-top: 1px solid black;"/> Signature - 4-H Youth Date / /	<hr style="width: 100%; border: none; border-top: 1px solid black;"/> Signature - Project Helper/Leader Date / /		

Do Your Own Thing Project Proposal Sheet

LaPorte County

Due to the 4-H Extension Educator by April 15th



Name		Grade
Address or Email (For return of proposal)		
4-H Club	Years in 4-H	Years in this project
Area of Interest		
In this project I hope to:		
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		
I will accomplish this project by:		
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		
From this I hope to learn:		
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		
My exhibit will be:		
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>		
Office Use Only		
_____ / / Educator Signature Date	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Not Approved	Date Returned to Member ____/____/____ Staff Member Initials _____ Email USPS

Do Your Own Thing Project
LaPorte County Record Sheet



Name _____ Project Level _____

My 4-H Club _____ Grade _____

Project Description

1. Why did you enroll in this project? _____

2. What new things have you learned by choosing this project? _____

3. Were you able to accomplish the goals you set for this project? _____

3 a. Did your goals change as your project progressed? If so, how? _____

4. What books or reference materials did you use, who did you ask for information, or where did you visit?

5. How can you use what you have learned by doing this project? _____

6. How much money and time have you invested in this project? _____

I have reviewed this record sheet and believe it to be correct.

Signature of 4-H Member: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Helper/Leader: _____ Date: _____

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