

2025-2026

Wise County 4-H

Family Guide



18 USC 707

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4-H and Youth Development Extension Agent
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Wise County – AgriLife Extension Service
940.627.3341
206 S. State St.
Decatur, TX 76234



Meet the Wise County

AgriLife Extension Office!

Hello 4-H family! My name is Karly West Chapa, and I am your Wise County 4-H and Youth Development Extension Agent. I am so excited about your interest and/or involvement in Wise County 4-H! This 4-H Family Guide will outline what 4-H is, how to become a member, what projects we offer, and will cover frequently asked questions. If at any point in your 4-H journey, you need assistance or have questions, my door is always open! Please use the extension office and me as a resource for your 4-H projects.

Make sure to check out our Facebook page, Wise County 4-H, and refer to our website to help find information regarding our 4-H program.

Let's roll into the best 4-H year yet!



Karly Chapa

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Wise County AgriLife Extension Service
206 S. State St., Decatur, TX 76234
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4-H Motto & Pledge

Motto



"To Make the Best Better"



Pledge



I pledge

My HEAD to clearer thinking,

My HEART to greater loyalty,

My HANDS to larger service,

And my HEALTH to better living,

For my club, my community, my country, and my
world.

Slogan



Learn by Doing.





How Do I Get Started?

1. Contact the club manager of the community club you would like to join!

- Our Wise County Club Managers/Project Leaders and Members are the front line of our 4-H program! Club Managers/Project Leaders should be one of your first contacts when your family is interested in 4-H. These adult volunteers are here to get you informed on how to enroll and get you plugged into their club. From there, your new 4-H club is the first resource to you for all things 4-H!

2. Enroll on 4-HOnline.

- texas.4honline.com – More information is listed in this guide.
- Wise County 4-H members expected to participate in the Wise County Youth Fair must be enrolled by December 31st of each calendar year – NO EXCEPTIONS. See wcyouthfair.org for more information.

3. Choose your project(s).

- There are SO MANY projects to choose from in 4-H! Things to consider when choosing a project should include:
 - A project you like,
 - a project that can be completed,
 - consider the money, time, space, and equipment that may go into the project,
 - a 4-H project should be fun, serve a purpose, and be worth the effort,
 - select only the number of projects you can complete,
 - and know that many projects are self-guided, self-directed, and self-completed.
- Examples of project areas can be found at <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/>

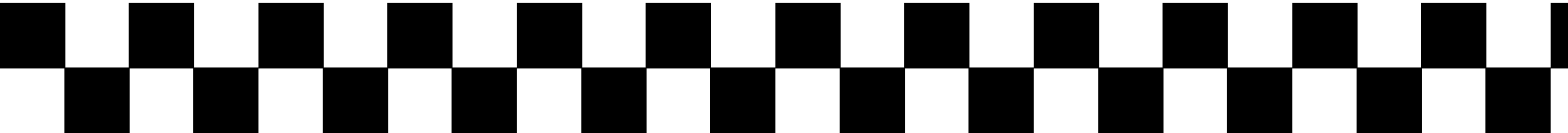
4. Stay informed!

- Once enrolled, the email you sign up with on 4-HOnline will automatically receive weekly (for the most part) updates from Karly at the Extension Office. Make sure you read these emails thoroughly to ensure you don't miss anything!
- Follow Wise County 4-H on Facebook! We keep this as updated as possible!
- Get on your club and project group email lists and Facebook pages!

5. Get involved!

- Attend monthly club meetings – this is a great way to meet other families, expand project experiences and knowledge, participate in community service, jump into leadership, and expand your 4-H experience!
- Participate in club, county, district, and state workshops, community service, fundraising, leadership, project experiences, camps, and more!

6. ASK QUESTIONS!

- You never know until you ask! If you're lost, confused, or curious – reach out to a club manager, project leader, adult volunteer, or the Extension Office! We're here to help make your family's 4-H journey the best experience possible!
- 

4-H Membership



Membership Policies

Any person, regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, religion, disability, or national origin, may enroll as a 4-H member.

Texas 4-H activities and events are open to enrolled members between the ages of 8 and in the 3rd grade through 18 on August 31. Events that require registration, certification, or entry during the summer before the beginning of the 4-H year – County Extension Agents may sign entry forms for events that will occur during the 4-H year for youth who will become eligible for and enroll in 4-H on September 1, but these youths may not participate in 4-H competitive events and activities until September 1st.

Zero-based enrollment – for accountability purposes and the requirement for keeping mailing lists updated, the Texas 4-H program will continue to use zero-based enrollment, meaning that we start new every 4-H year and must re-enroll new members and volunteers, yearly.

4-H Divisions

4-H is divided into four different age divisions. These are the divisions members enter for contests, camps, and other 4-H events. The divisions are as follows:

- Clover Kids – Kinder through 2nd grade
- Juniors – 8 years old AND in the 3rd grade through 5th grade
- Intermediates – 6th grade through 8th grade
- Seniors – 9th grade through 12th grade

Clover Kids are our youngest set of 4-H members. Although their age does not meet the requirements to participate in all that 4-H has to offer, doesn't mean that they can't participate at all! Clover Kids has their project group in Wise County where they can learn about and cultivate their 4-H interests before beginning their journey as an active member!

Enrollment

There is a one-time enrollment fee for ALL members and volunteers. New in 2023–2024, Clover Kids will also be charged an enrollment fee. This fee covers insurance and liability for 4-H members when participating in 4-H-sanctioned events.

- Clover Kids – \$10 all year
- Adult Volunteers – \$10 all year
- Junior – Senior aged members – \$25 Sept. 1 – Oct. 31

Note:

- Enrollment fees increase to \$30 Nov. 1

- 4-H members and volunteer leaders will utilize the online enrollment system, 4-HOnline, to enroll in Wise County 4-H.
- Once enrolled, your family profile stays with you your entire 4-H career, no need to ever create a new family profile. With that in mind, use an email you have access to and you check often! This email will be used as a primary source of communication!
- If you have moved from another county, please get in touch with the Extension Office to begin a transfer process.

**Visit texas.4honline.com
to enroll today!**

WE OUR **4-H VOLUNTEERS!**

What types of 4-H Volunteers are there?

Volunteers are essential to the successful implementation of the 4-H program.

A registered adult 4-H volunteer working directly with 4-H youth in Texas completes a Youth Protection Standards Program (criminal background check) and receives training. Teens may also serve in volunteer roles through the 4-H Leadership Project.

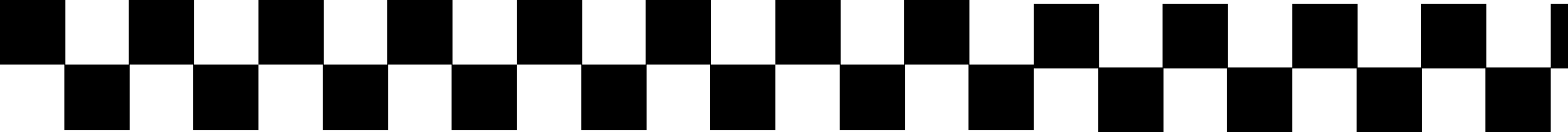
Volunteers can serve in a variety of roles, including the following:

- Club Managers
- Project Leaders
- Shooting Sport Coaches
- Event Judges
- Community Resource Person
- Camp Counselors/Chaperone
- Parent Helpers
- Advisory Council Member
- Mentors



**VISIT texas.4honline.com
to become a volunteer today!**





4-H Is...

Texas 4-H is a youth development organization for kids and teens 5-18, and it's BIG! It's the largest youth development program in Texas with more than 550,000 youth each year. Wise County itself had 450 members in the 2023-2024 4-H year! No matter what part of the county or what your interests are, 4-H has something that lets you be a better you!

You may think 4-H is only for your friends with animals, but it's so much more! You can do activities like shooting sports, food & nutrition, fashion & interior design, photography, and more!

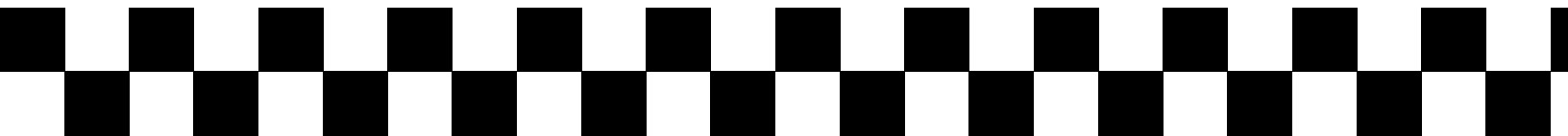
Activities

In 4-H, the activities are organized by topics and called "projects". All 4-H members must be enrolled in at least one project. When you choose a project, you will learn everything there is to know about that topic. You will participate in various hands-on activities, learn new skills, do community service, or even make speeches about your project. Keep reading, or browse the Texas 4-H website for a list of projects that may interest you!

How to choose your 4-H project:

- Select a project you like and can be completed.
- Consider the money and time it will take. Can parents/guardians help you?
- Consider the space and equipment that you have at home.
- A 4-H project should be fun, serve a purpose, and be worth the effort.
- Select only the number of projects you can complete.

Find more information about 4-H projects at: <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/>



What Can I Do In 4-H?

The 4-H slogan is "Learn by Doing". 4-H members complete learning experiences called 4-H projects. A project is an area of interest that a 4-H member wants to learn more about. Each project consists of at least six hours of learning time and provides hands-on, in-depth learning experiences for members.

A 4-H member may participate in one or more projects each year. Below is a partial list of 4-H projects to choose from:

Photography	Beef
Dog Care	Meat Goats
Citizenship	Sheep
Food & Nutrition	Swine
Clothing & Textiles	Rabbits
Public Speaking	Horse
Horticulture	Dairy Cattle
Leadership	Dairy Goats
Shooting Sports	Consumer Education

Just about any subject can be tailored into an independent 4-H project if your club doesn't have a leader for your interest.

Another way to participate in 4-H is by attending club meetings. These club meetings are conducted by 4-H'ers who have been elected into officer positions. 4-H adult volunteer leaders help 4-H members plan and run the meetings. Each club has an adult volunteer leader who acts as the club manager. The 4-H club manager oversees the meetings and activities of their respective club.

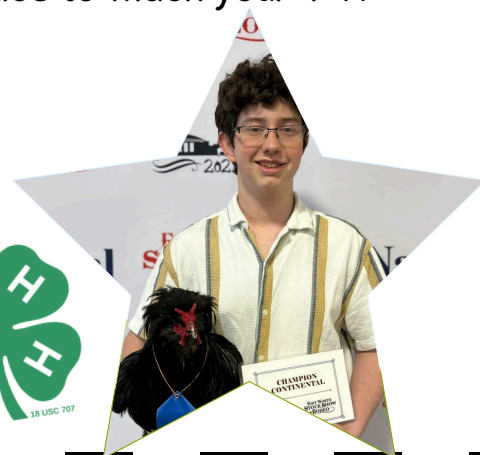
4-H offers its members many fun activities to participate in. In addition to attending club meetings and completing projects, you might also enjoy making presentations, performing skits, and leadership and community service activities. There are also opportunities to participate in 4-H camps, retreats, exhibition shows, and contests.



How do Projects Get Done?

How Do I Get Involved?

- Many projects are self-guided, self-directed, and self-completed. There is no meeting that discusses the project, there is no contest required, there is no club for the project, and there may be no one else in the county who is involved in the project. It is an area your student is interested in learning more about and wants to do it, and that is ok.
 - See the Self-Directed Project Guide to Success (attached to this guide) for more information.
- Check out the Texas 4-H Project Guides for project experience inspiration –
 - <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/resources/>
- Contact one (or all!) of our Project Groups for project experience, 101 assistance, resources, and more!
 - Wise County currently offers Dog, Clover Kids, Goat (Dairy & Market), Livestock Judging, Rabbit, Photography, Poultry, Vet Science, Shooting Sports, Horse, and Clothing & Textiles.
 - See the Project Groups page for contact information.
- Most projects have contests, leadership experiences, workshops, camps, and more available to widen project experiences! Check out the project-specific pages for more information at <https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/projects/>
- Keep records throughout the year of project activities, highlights, successes, failures, learning experiences, leadership, and community service – this will come in handy for Record Books and Awards at the end of the 4-H Year!
- Participate in workshops, practices, educational experiences, contests – club, county, district, state, and beyond, at-home learning experiences, and so much more! Stay informed with Wise County 4-H to learn about more opportunities to widen your 4-H experience!





4-H at the Wise County Youth Fair



Find more info and rule information at:
wcyouthfair.org



What can a 4-H member do at WCYF?

-Livestock Exhibition-

Beef

Breeding Heifers, Market Steers, Prospect Steers,
& Longhorn Cattle

Goat

Breeding Boer, Breeding Dairy, & Market Wether

Poultry

Breeding & Broilers

Rabbit

Breeding & Fryer

Sheep

Swine

Barrows & Gilts

-Contests-

Agriculture Product Identification

4-H Clothing – Fashion Show

4-H Photography Contest

Livestock Judging

Public Speaking

Rabbit Identification

Queen's Contest

-Other-

4-H Arts & Crafts

4-H Foods

Agriculture Mechanics

Dog Show

Horse Show

Horticulture

Pet Show

WCYF Scholarship

Junior Board

Heart of a Champion Special Needs

Livestock Show

How do I participate?

To participate as a Wise Co. 4-H member at
Youth Fair, you must be enrolled on 4-HOnline by

December 31, 2025 NO EXCEPTIONS!!!

To enroll go to 4honline.com

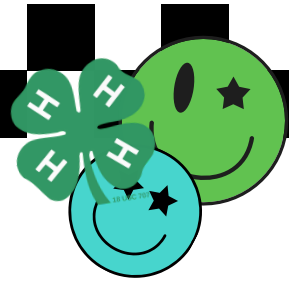
Questions or more information:

940.627.3341

karly.west@ag.tamu.edu



Wise County 4-H Clubs & Project Groups



Community Clubs

ALVORD

2nd Monday @ 6 pm
Alvord High School

Amy Wagner
806-346-6359
alvord4hclub@gmail.com

BOYD

3rd Tuesday @ 6:30 pm
Trinity Baptist Church

Misty Goodner - 530-386-5913
mlsnku@hotmail.com
Pam Johns - 817-629-6818
pamjohns0124@gmail.com

BRIDGEPORT

2nd Sunday @ 3:30 pm
Bridgeport Middle School

Andrea Clark
408-825-3392
amclark711@gmail.com

CLOTHING & TEXTILES

1st Tuesday @ 6 pm
Extension Office

Julia Haschke
817-690-4823
jhaschke06@gmail.com

CHICO

2nd Sunday @ 4 pm
Chico Elementary

Kelly Martin - 940-210-2506
Cindy Barksdale - 940-210-1416
kellyjmartin98@gmail.com

DECATUR

4th Monday @ 6 pm
Extension Office

Carrie Read
817-228-3360
decatur4hwisecounty@gmail.com

HORSE

2nd Monday @ 6 pm
NRS Break Room

Haley Shurden
940-393-1685
haleylemaster@gmail.com

PARADISE

2nd Tuesday @ 6 pm
Paradise Jr. High School

Angie Colten
214-226-9953
jacolten2@gmail.com

VICTORY

3rd Monday @ 6 pm
Victory Christian Academy

Jennifer Pinkerton - 817-229-7706
Kendra Rainey - 940-867-4382
jennifer@victorychristianacademy.org

SLIDELL

2nd Thursday @ 6 pm
Slidell High School

Rachael Willett - 940-210-7893
Meghan German - 979-777-6494
willetttrachael714@gmail.com
meg.german06@gmail.com

Wise County 4-H Clubs & Project Groups



Project Groups

WISE COUNTY 4-H AMBASSADORS

4th Tuesday @ 6PM – Wise Co. Extension Office
karly.west@ag.tamu.edu or 940-627-3341

DOG

2nd Tuesday/4th Thursday @ 6 pm
Wise Co. Fairground Rabbit Bldg
Janie Vawter
940-859-6520

CLOVER KIDS

Follow Wise County 4-H on
Facebook for more information!
Karly West
940-627-3341

LIVESTOCK JUDGING

Follow Wise County 4-H on
Facebook for more information!
Karly West
940-627-3341

RABBIT

3rd Thursday @ 6:30 pm
Trinity Baptist Church/Boyd
John & Landon Moore
tripletrabbitry@gmail.com
817-999-9255

GOAT

Kelly Martin
940-210-2506

PHOTOGRAPHY

Join Wise County Kids
Photography Project on
Facebook for more
information!

POULTRY

Contact Julia Haschke for
more information!
817-690-4823
jhaschke06@gmail.com

VET SCIENCE

1st Friday @ 5:30 pm
Maribel Loza
619-306-0228
chatwithchamps@gmail.com

SHOOTING SPORTS

2ND & LAST Sundays @ 1:00 pm
Parker Co. Sportsman's Club
Jason Norris – 817-382-7299
norris.4hss@gmail.com

–Wise County 4-H Shooting Sports on Facebook–

Contact Us!



Wise County 4-H
Wise County Clothing & Textiles 4-H Club
Wise County 4-H Shooting Sports
Alvord 4-H
Boyd 4-H Wise County
Paradise 4-H
Bridgeport 4-H Club
Chico, Texas 4-H Club
Slidell/Greenwood 4H
Goat Project
Wise County Youth Photography Project



karly.west@ag.tamu.edu



940.627.3341



Wise County AgriLife Extension Service
206 S. State St.
Decatur, TX 76234



2026 WISE CO. YOUTH FAIR

ENTRY PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2026 – FEBRUARY 1, 2026

LATE ENTRY PERIOD: FEBRUARY 2, 2026 – FEBRUARY 6, 2026

IMPORTANT INFORMATION & REMINDERS:

- ALL ENTRIES WILL BE MADE ONLINE AT WCYOUTHFAIR.ORG/ENTRY-INFORMATION
- ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE AN ACTIVE AND ENROLLED MEMBER OF 4-H, FFA, AND/OR FCCLA TO BE ELIGIBLE
- TO ENTER THE YOUTH FAIR AS A 4-H MEMBER, YOU MUST BE ENROLLED BY DECEMBER 31, 2024 – NO EXCEPTIONS!!
 - (PLEASE SEE THE YOUTH FAIR RULES FOR ALL OTHER ELIGIBILITY RULES/DATES.)
- PLEASE READ THROUGH THE YOUTH FAIR RULES & GUIDELINES CAREFULLY BEFORE ENTERING! ALL WISE COUNTY YOUTH FAIR RULES & INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT:

WCYOUTHFAIR.ORG

FOR 4-H QUESTIONS: 940.627.3341 OR KARLY.WEST@AG.TAMU.EDU
FOR WCYF QUESTIONS: WCYFSEC@EMBARQMAIL.COM

2025-2026 WISE COUNTY 4-H

Academic Eligibility Policy



School Absences and Participation in 4-H Competitive Activities

4-H has been recognized by the Texas Education Agency as a legitimate school-related extracurricular organization. 4-H members may apply for excused absences in order to participate in 4-H activities. It is the responsibility of the local school district to determine whether or not any student is eligible and may be excused from classes to participate in any extracurricular event or activity. 4-H members are not automatically excused upon request, but are subject to all regulations of the Texas Education Agency and their local school district as they may apply to extracurricular participation.

ALL WISE COUNTY 4-H YOUTH, INCLUDING YOUTH IN PUBLIC, PRIVATE, OR HOME SCHOOL MUST ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES REGARDING COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES

- For eligibility to be sent, a member **MUST BE ACTIVELY ENROLLED IN WISE COUNTY 4-H** before the request is sent.
- **If a member will be participating in a 4-H event, the eligibility request must be sent to kelly.huston@ag.tamu.edu AT LEAST two weeks in advance.**
 - **Information to include: member name, school, event name, and dates.**
- Events **MUST BE 4-H SANCTIONED OR SPONSORED** for the Extension Office to send Academic Eligibility.
 - **Longhorn shows, AKC dog shows, open livestock shows, and rodeos are examples of events that may not be 4-H sanctioned.**
- If a member is involved in or interested in a non-4-H sanctioned events, the Wise County AgriLife Extension Office will write a letter of support for those events to the school. From there, the parent/guardian may submit the academic eligibility to the school.

Specifics related to eligibility during Fall/Spring breaks, summer vacation, and holidays can be found on the UIL website at: <https://www.uil texas.org/policy/tea-uil-side-by-side>.

**FOR QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION:
940.627.3341 OR KARLY.WEST@AG.TAMU.EDU**

2025-2026 WISE COUNTY 4-H

Academic Eligibility FAQ



WHAT IS ELIGIBILITY?

Eligibility for participation refers to the **academic, behavioral, & attendance requirements** students must meet to participate in UIL-supported extracurricular activities, such as sports, music, academic competitions, & in this case, **ANY & ALL 4-H RELATED ACTIVITIES**.

The primary rule guiding **eligibility** is the “**No pass, No Play**” rule.

Academic eligibility is determined by YOUR SCHOOL, NOT OUR OFFICE.
HOWEVER, we are responsible for respecting the school’s decision & MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY OF UIL & ITS GUIDELINES.

WHAT ARE THE ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS?

Academic eligibility is initially based on your **most recent report card**.

Student must **pass all their classes with a minimum grade of 70** at the end of a grading period (usually six or nine weeks, depending on the school district).

At the SCHOOL’S discretion, exceptions can be made for students in special education or who have an accommodation under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

HOW DO YOU CHECK ELIGIBILITY?

A Declaration of Eligibility Form will be submitted for **any and all 4-h related contests and activities**. This includes **MAJOR LIVESTOCK SHOWS**, County, District, and State level events.

You are responsible for notifying our office of any activities that ARE NOT DIRECTLY ENTERED THROUGH OUR OFFICE **TWO WEEKS IN ADVANCE**. Contests and events entered through our office will automatically be sent to your school.

WHEN DO YOU LOSE ELIGIBILITY?

Eligibility is lost **one week** after the end of the grading period. Eligibility can be regained **one week following the three-week grade check (progress report)**.

You **CANNOT** compete in any 4-H related activities during a period of ineligibility!

Specifics related to eligibility during Fall/Spring breaks, summer vacation, and holidays can be found on the UIL website at: <https://www.uil-texas.org/policy/tea-uil-side-by-side>.

**FOR QUESTIONS OR MORE INFORMATION:
940.627.3341 OR KARLY.WEST@AG.TAMU.EDU**

2025-2026

Wise County 4-H AMBASSADOR TEAM

JUNIOR AMBASSADORS:

BRYNLEE BAIRD - PARADISE 4-H

PARKER GERMAN - BRIDGEPORT 4-H

ALYSON JOHNSON - VICTORY 4-H

LYNNLEIGH READ - DECATUR 4-H

SENIOR AMBASSADORS:

BRAYDEN BAIRD - PARADISE 4-H

BRYCE BAIRD - PARADISE

CAMBRIE BARKSDALE - CHICO 4-H

CODY BARNETT - VICTORY 4-H

JAMES COLTEN - PARADISE 4-H

ALAN COX - PARADISE 4-H

OAKLEY GOODNER - BOYD 4-H

PRESLEY GOODNER - BOYD 4-H

BLAKE MORROW - BRIDGEPORT 4-H

EMMA PINKERTON - VICTORY 4-H

KATELYN READ - PARADISE 4-H

ELIZABETH ROMINES - CHICO 4-H

"To Make the Best Better"

AMBASSADORS MEET ON THE 4TH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6PM IN THE EXTENSION OFFICE

KARLY.WEST@AG.TAMU.EDU // 940.627.3341

Self-Directed Project Guide to Success

Texas 4-H Youth Development



Want to learn more about a specific subject or interest you may have, but cannot find a project to go with it? Self-directed projects might be for you! With the guidance of your 4-H leader and county Extension agent, you can turn your interest into a self-directed 4-H project.

A 4-H Self-directed Project is an opportunity for members to explore a new topic which may not fit into the current project offerings. A 4-H Self-directed project may not be supported with resources from Texas 4-H Youth Development.

Step 1: Project Guidelines

Project Guidelines

1. Make an inventory of your interests or something you would like to learn more about. Identify a topic for your project.
2. Discuss your ideas with family, friends, and your county Extension agent. Decide what it is you want to do and learn.
3. Set a goal. Decide what the end goal of your project will be and necessary steps to achieve your goal.
4. Gather information about your topic using credible resources. The web address can help you identify the kind of organization responsible for the website:
 - An educational institution is indicated by .edu
 - Those with .gov are funded by a government agency
 - Professional organizations, such as scientific or research societies, are identified by .org
5. List all the things you want to learn about your topic.
6. Complete at least six experiential learning experiences. Experiential learning includes activities, research, programs, or other experiences where learning takes place. The National 4-H Experiential Learning Fact Sheet indicates this type of learning occurs when:
 - Youth **experience** the activity—perform or do it.
 - Youth **share** the experience by describing what happened.
 - Youth **process** the experience to figure out what was most important and identify common themes.
 - Youth **generalize** from the experience and **relate** it to their daily lives.
 - Youth **apply** what they learned to a new situation.
7. Plan and complete at least two leadership/citizenship activities.
8. Share and report your project accomplishments to your club, community, and county agents.

Step 2: Learning Experiences

Learning Experiences

Choose at least six learning experiences from the example list below (or create your own).

- Participate in a clinic, or workshop related to your topic
- Attend a demonstration, or speech on a topic related to your project
- Research your topic online using credible resources
- Interview an expert in the field
- Tour a facility, agency, or business related to your topic
- Participate in online learning sessions

Step 3: Leadership/ Citizenship

Leadership/Citizenship Activities

Choose at least two leadership/citizenship activities from the list below (or create your own).

- Help in setting up and/or cleaning up for a show or event
- Help someone with his or her project
- Provide leadership at a workshop or program related to your project
- Encourage a friend to join 4-H and choose a project
- Teach someone something that you learned about 4-H or about your topic
- Invite someone to talk to your club about your topic
- Give advice to a member who is preparing a project for the fair
- Prepare an exhibit or display promoting your topic or 4-H
- Prepare a public service announcement for school, radio, television, or social media on a topic related to your project
- Help organize a club activity on this project
- Prepare your own demonstration, illustrated talk or exhibit

Step 4: Record Your Success

Record your Experiences and Success

Record keeping is a valuable life skill. Record keeping is a way to develop the skills necessary to set goals, work toward achieving those goals, reflect on experiences, and set new and higher goals. Record keeping can be done through a variety of ways, either formally in a 4-H Record Book or informally through personal journaling.

- Record keeping – keeping a history of one's activities such as financial dealings or life events by entering data in ledgers, journals, calendars or putting items into a file system; an essential life skill
- 4-H Record Book – the competitive event where 4-H members assemble their records into a specified document and submit those for evaluation against other 4-H members. However, one may choose to complete a record book just for the skill learned and not choose to submit for competition

Adapted From

Ohio State University | https://ohio4h.org/sites/ohio4h/files/imce/books_resources/Curriculum/365-Self-Determined-Project-Guide.pdf

Iowa State University | <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/projects/selfdetermined>

Penn State | <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/4-h/leaders/resources/publications/m9800a>

University of Florida IFAS Extension | <https://edis.ifas.u.edu/4h243>