

NAME _____
CLUB _____
BIRTHDATE _____
YEARS IN PROJECT _____
YEARS IN 4-H _____

DO YOUR THING

The Self-Determined 4-H project is one in which you the 4-H member make the decisions about:

What it will be.

How you will do it.

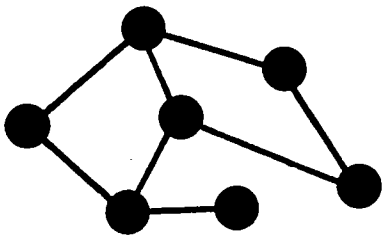
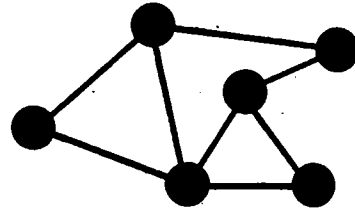
How you will evaluate and report it.

We call it a "Do Your Own Thing" Project.

Sound simple? Perhaps, it is, but making up your mind about the project can be challenging and a good exercise in decision making.

You can plan a long term project (several years) or one that can be completed in a few weeks.

You may select any topic that is of interest to you. It may be in a different direction than any 4-H project you have already taken. It may be on a topic completely unrelated to previous work, but one in which you are interested.



Why?

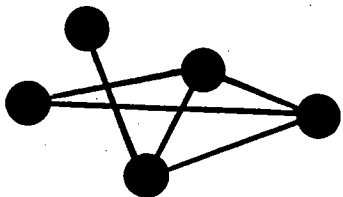
The work we do can be much more worthwhile to us if we have a deep interest in the endeavor. The self-determined project will fit the project to the 4-H'er rather than fit the 4-H'er to the project.

The 4-H projects and project manuals cover many interesting topics but cannot possibly cover everything that is interesting and worthwhile to young people today. New knowledge and new situations come to our attention daily that are appropriate for study and work in 4-H.

It is important to learn how to make sound decisions. You will have ample opportunity in this project to practice as you decide the nature of your project and how you will carry it out.

This project guide was adapted from the University of Nebraska bulletin, "Do Your Own Thing" and from a similar circular prepared by the Cooperative Extension Service, University of Illinois.

SELECTING A PROJECT



You may already have a topic in mind around which to build your self-determined project. If you have-good-go ahead and develop it. But before you make the final decision you may want to think about other possibilities as well.

One way to begin is to make an inventory of your interests, needs, aspirations and concerns. This should include everything that "could be" a project. From this list you can identify which "should be" and finally which "will be" your self-determined project this year.

If your project is to be based upon an interest, need, aspiration and concern, a definition will be of help in clarifying what is meant by each of these terms.

Interests..... An interest is something which excites your feelings and gains your attention or curiosity. It causes you to say, "Oh, I'd like to do that!"

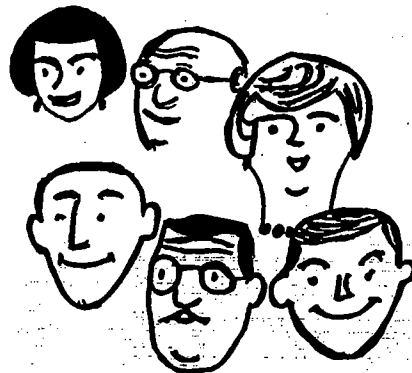
Needs..... A need is something, which you, your family or community seem to be in want of, to lack or to require. You say to yourself, "Yes, I can see that it is necessary to do that."

Aspirations..... Your aspirations are strong wishes, something you long for, desire with eagerness or seek to attain. Welling up in you is an ardent desire which causes you to feel, "Now I really want to try to reach that."

Concerns..... Your concerns are those things which affect the welfare and happiness of yourself, your family, your club, of other people or of the community, society or world in which you live. A concern is of importance to you, you care.

Talk to others whom you know or who live in your community and make your list. They might be:

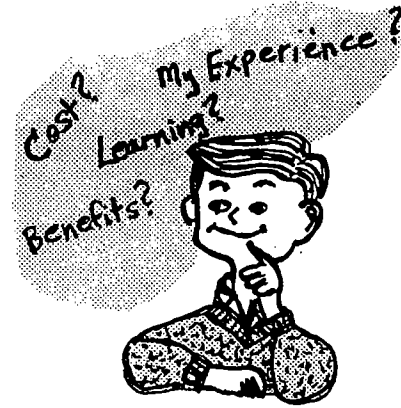
- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Friends | Clergymen |
| Neighbors | Engineers |
| Parents | Mechanics |
| Leaders | Dieticians |
| Business people | Nurses |
| Farmers | Counselors |
| Ranchers | Scientists |
| Homemakers | Artists |
| Teachers | Craftsmen |
| Extension workers | Doctors |
| Specialists | Dentists |
| People with social concerns | Laborers |



MAKING UP YOUR MIND

Select the one topic you will use for your "Do Your Thing" project. The following criteria may help you decide.

1. What personal experience have you had in this area?
2. Where will you go to find background information?
3. How much will it cost?
4. Who could be helpful in planning or carrying out the project?
5. How worthwhile will the project be?
6. What will you learn from the project?
7. How will it fit into your home and family situation?
8. How will it benefit others?
9. How will it benefit you?



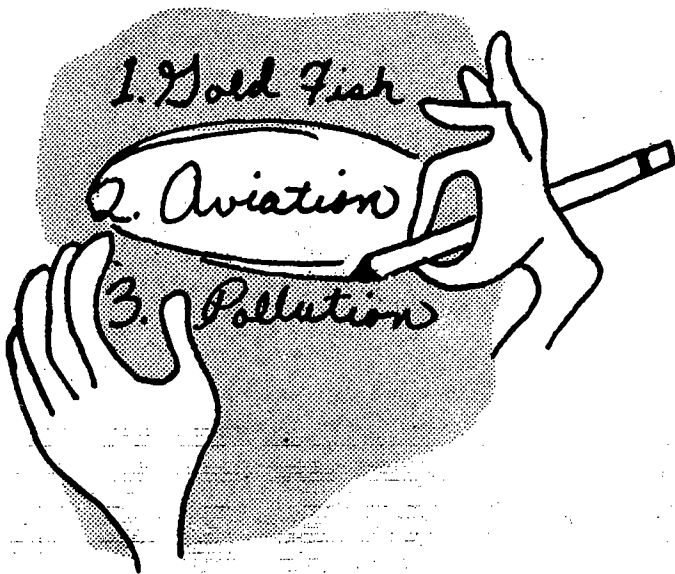
My Inventory of Interests

List ideas of topics suitable for your "Do Your Own Thing" project. Include ideas or problems you would like to investigate, something you would like to do, ways in which you could be helpful to other people, topics which could be helpful to you.

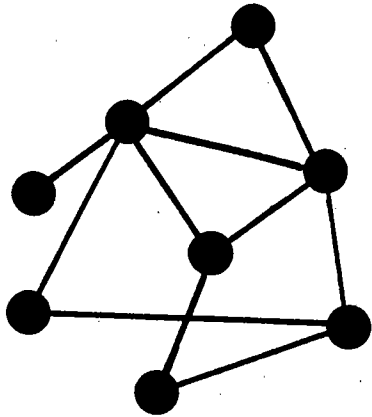
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

To whom did you talk about your ideas in the above list?

Circle the topic above that seems to have the most promise.



DEVELOPING A PLAN



A plan is simply "thinking ahead"; anticipating what you will do, how you will do it, possible difficulties, final results. The plan becomes more clear if it is written down. A time table will help you make progress in an orderly way.

The plan must include not only what you plan to do, but also what you plan to learn. You may need new information, facts, understandings. Your feelings and attitudes may change. It may be necessary to learn a new skill.

Consider:

Reviewing project plans with other people—your leader, parents, Extension Agent, teachers, friends, etc.

Write for literature and materials. Check costs.

Check the library and other sources of information.

Experiment, investigate.

**CARRY
OUT
YOUR
PLAN.....**

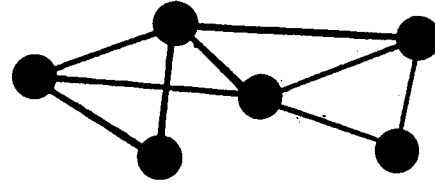
My Plans	
1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
5.	_____
6.	_____
7.	_____
8.	_____
9.	_____

EVALUATING THE PROJECT

Progress is measured in terms of goals that you set at the beginning of the project. How well did you accomplish what you set out to do?

Evidence of what you have accomplished can be collected in a number of ways.

You may want to:

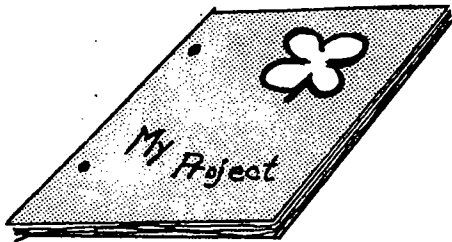


Take Pictures



Photographs, slides, even movies can tell a story. Before and after pictures are very effective. A series of pictures showing the steps or different stages in the development of your project can show progress.

Have Records



You decide what kind of information you need to keep. A diary, outline, drawings, pictures can help tell your story. Your record should show:

What you have done.

What you have learned from the project.

What did it cost?

How has your project been of benefit to others?

How has your project been of benefit to you?

Add sheets to this record if needed.

Use your imagination. Let the records you develop be an exciting reflection

of what your project means to you.

Tell Others



Further satisfactions and opportunities for growth come from sharing what you have learned with others.

Sharing can also help you summarize, analyze, and further assess what you are accomplishing.

These ways of sharing were suggested by young people:

1. Individual help, workshops, programs, meetings, and serving on committees.
2. Exhibits, window displays, bulletin boards and fair booths.
3. Demonstrations, illustrated talks, dramatic scenes, and TV programs.
4. Talks, interviews, panel discussions and radio programs.
5. Tours and field trips.
6. Newspaper articles and features in magazines.

My Project Plan

Title and description of the project:

Why did you select this project?

What I plan to do	Date to be done	What I want to learn

I have reviewed the above plan:

Comments:

Leader

Record of Progress in My Project

(Add sheets as necessary)

COMPLETE THIS SECTION OF THE FORM WHEN YOUR PROJECT IS COMPLETE.

<p>Did you <u>do</u> all the things you planned? If not, why not? Did you do some things beyond those you planned? If so, what are they?</p>	<p>Did you <u>learn</u> all of the things you planned to learn? If not, why not? Did you learn some things beyond those you planned? If so, what are they?</p>

What aspect of the project was most valuable? Why? _____

Leader's evaluation: _____

Date

Signed

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