



Project Leader Frequently Asked Questions

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What is a project?

The purpose or goal of 4-H is to create environment in which young people are valued, contributing members of their community.

Projects have been described as the foundation of 4-H because they provide the base for the learning experience that contribute to personal development. Three major purposes for project work are to:

- Provide members with knowledge, skills and problem solving abilities.
- Encourage members to develop an interest in a career.
- Assist youth in developing favorable self-image.

Do I have meeting and when should I start?

Yes, most definitely. You need to start early in the year and call the group together for the first meeting. You may want to include parents at the first meeting.

Where do I have these meetings?

You can decide the location. Most often, the meetings are held in the home of the project leader or a member's home. Equipment sometime limits the meeting places.

How many meetings should I have?

A minimum of six hours of instruction is the goal. As a general guideline, you should plan 8 meetings to allow for scheduling conflicts. Meetings are held for 1 to 1.5 hours. The number, ages and attention spans of the youth in the group should be considered. Younger members may want to meet weekly. Most important is for all youth in your project to have an opportunity to complete the project to meet your and their expectations. All projects work does not need to be done at the project meeting. During the year, skill-a-thon, judging, field trip, demonstration day and /or community service can be incorporated into your project meeting or 4-H Club meeting as a starter or part of the program.

What resources do I have?

- Leaders/helpers guide for most projects
- Member's manual for projects
- University of Missouri guides sheets obtained from the local University of Missouri Extension Center for some projects
- Project briefs
- Local library
- Extension faculty and staff
- Other leaders in your club or county

What about finances?

Finance varies depending on the project, but each child/family is responsible for paying for their materials. Sometimes a project leader will purchase all the materials and divide the cost. A project leader may ask members to bring items. Either way, the member, family is responsible for their project materials.

What is a youth leader?

A youth leader is a 4-H member, age 14 or over, who will assist you in leading the project. Youth leaders may be helpful in organizing the groups, teaching some skills, arranging field trips presenting demonstrations, or setting up skill-a-thons and judging activities. Some groups may not have a youth leader.

Who can be a project leader and long do I serve?

Any person who has an interest in the subject chosen by the members can be a project leader. Important qualifications are necessary time to do the job, an understanding for youth and their development and orientation training. The job of project leader starts at the beginning of the 4-H Club year September 1 and ends at the close of club year August 31 the following year.

What is the goal of project leader?

The goal is help each young person develop to their greatest potential. Your success can be measured by the growth of the 4-Her, not by the number or quality of project made.