

DESIGN YOUR OWN PROJECT

Designing your own project can be fun and will provide good experiences. Good planning is imperative, and will help make your new, approved project a success. These plans include thinking/brainstorming with youth and adult members (team work) what you'd like to accomplish (setting goals), deciding what materials and supplies (resources) you will need, and following through with the plans (accountability).

You may design a project whenever there is a subject you would like to explore for which there is no designated project. However, **ALL "Design Your Own Project" plans must be approved by 4-H staff prior to beginning your project.**

Projects must have educational value and content must not be discriminatory in any way. If you are unsure about the educational value of a project, it is best to call the 4-H Office before beginning your proposed design. 925-646-6120 or 646-6543.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Complete attached form. If the Adult Leader has not enrolled in your 4-H club, and has not completed county orientation and live scan fingerprinting, please find another adult who has completed these requirements to assist until this has been completed. Be sure and state if this will be a Group Determined Project (more than one participant) or a self-determined project (just one member) or Countywide Project (other county club could participate)
2. Plan where you will meet, when and how often. Six hours is the **minimum** amount of time spent in activities to be considered a project. The fiscal program year begins July 1 and ends on June 30 of the calendar year. However, Contra Costa 4-H program projects run September through June.
3. All project members are to complete an official 4-H Project Report as a record of the work completed. This is a 4-H requirement. If members plan to keep a record book to enter for judging on the club, county and state level (this is optional), the project should be completed by June 30 (deadline for club judging varies – be sure to check with your Community Leader).
4. Think of the resources you will need and where you can get them, including written materials. Be sure to check the state and national 4-H websites for inexpensive, resource based materials. <http://ca4h.org> or www.4-Hmall.org If supplies are very expensive, you may want to have a fundraiser and/or seek donations.
5. Deciding on educational goals of your project is very important. The goals are the skills or knowledge learned by doing this project.

For example, if you are designing a project for stage craft, goals might be:

- Learning how to perform a short skit using newly acquired information
- Understanding the scientific principles behind stagecraft i.e.: light, sound, sight lines, scenery, props
- Becoming comfortable performing for an audience
- Learning about professionals and all the safety requirements they have in place

List general activities in your project to meet your goals. For instance, in the Magic Trick Project, participants may want to:

- Visit a professional technical rehearsal at a local theatre
- Study the senses and find out and practice how illusions and imagination work for you and your audience
- Perform a show/skit for younger children or at a senior facility

Determine how and when the project is complete. Perhaps the Stage Craft Project would be complete when 10 performances have been shared at other clubs or put on several performances for preschool children or at a care facility.

6. Complete this form and return to the 4-H Office for approval: 75 Santa Barbara Rd. 2nd Fl., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 prior to beginning the project.

DESIGN YOUR OWN PROJECT – Please complete all sections before turning in to the office for approval.

First and Last Name: _____ Club: _____

Proposed Project Name: _____

Check all that apply

Group Determined (*Two members or more*) Self Determined (*One member*) Countywide Project

Address and name of facility where the project meetings will be held _____

Start date _____ Ending date _____ How often will you meet? (*i.e.: once per week, or twice a month*) _____

List materials needed _____

_____ Approximate cost per person\$ _____

Project members purchase/borrow Fundraise Both

Author and title of books, periodicals, reports etc: _____

Educational Project Goals: _____

Specific activities/performances/demonstrations performed: _____

If this is a Group Determined or Countywide project, what ages of the youth members is it appropriate for? _____

Is the adult project leader enrolled in 4-H and has completed county orientation and fingerprinting approved? _____

Please return to the 4-H Office for approval. UCCE-Contra Costa 4-H, 75 Santa Barbara Rd. 2nd Fl., Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

Thank you!