

Do Your Own Thing



PROJECT HELPER

"Do Your Own Thing" is especially planned to encourage youth of any age to explore topics* *other than those included in existing 4-H projects*. This project helps youth challenge themselves with new or advanced experiences. *Some topic possibilities are:

- astronomy
- learning to fly
- robotics
- glass art
- wood furniture refinishing
- restoring an old car
- music/dance/drama
- developing tourist attractions in your community
- working toward a ham radio operator's license
- service to your community

If a topic is related to an existing project, enroller 4-Her in that project. Refer to N.D. 4-H Family Guide.

SELECTING YOUR PROJECT

You may already 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.

Your choice of project work is probably based upon an interest, need, dream or concern. These definitions will help clarify what is meant by each term.

- INTEREST** 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!"
- NEED** A need is something which you, your family or community seem to want or require. You say, "Yes, I can see it is necessary to do that."
- 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 find a Project Helper to talk to or assist as you work on this topic. Then, go ahead and develop a plan.

Maybe you will work on this project for more than one year. Then, you will need to build on your project plan for each year you are enrolled in this "Do Your Own Thing" study area.

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, magazines)?
- Who could help me in planning or carrying out the project?
- What personal experience have I had in this area?
- How long will it take to complete my project goals? How much will it cost?



Materials adapted by state 4-H Design Team members
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 NDSU is an equal opportunity institution.

My 4-H Self-Determined Project

1. PLANNING MY PROJECT GOALS

To be completed at the *beginning* of the 4-H year.

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

A. What is the topic or area you will study? _____

B. Why did you choose to do this? _____

Things I will do in this project	Target dates	Who will help me	Date when completed
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; border-top: 1px solid black; padding-top: 5px;"> Signature -- 4-H Youth _____/_____/_____ Date Signature -- Project Helper _____/_____/_____ Date </div>			

2. RESULTS OF THE 4-H PROJECT GOALS I SET

To be completed at the *end* of the 4-H year.

Knowledge and Skills Gained

List things you learned and skills gained in this project that are related to your plan. List other things you learned, how you improved yourself, and how you worked with other individuals and in larger groups.

(Add pages as needed.)

Financial Summary

Complete this section if it's appropriate to the project. You may attach additional pages.

Date	Item	Expense	Income
TOTAL (at end of year or completion of project)			

Leadership

List your leadership activities that relate to this project. Tell how you organized activities or chaired a committee. Complete this section if it's appropriate to the project.

Citizenship/Community Involvement

List what you have done or how you were involved in your community as it relates to this project.
Complete this section if it's appropriate to the project.

Other Learning Experiences in this Project

How did you share what you have learned (displays, media, lessons, demonstrations, talks)?

	Date		Date
Signature - 4H Youth		Signature - Project Helper	

EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT

The progress made in working on your project is based on the goals you identified at the beginning of the club year.
How well did you accomplish what you said you would? Did you change your plan? Why?

Accomplishments can be recorded by doing any or all of the following:

1. Taking photographs, slides or videos of progress in the project
2. Saving newspaper story clippings
3. Keeping records
4. Sharing what you've learned with others by giving a talk or demonstration
5. Teaching someone else what you've learned
6. Writing a short paragraph describing your work in this project area this year. (Would you do this again? Why? What was the most difficult? Most fun? Easiest?)

Exhibit ideas:

1. Scrapbook or notebook
2. Folder
3. Actual item
4. Picture story showing project progress
5. Poster

(Special equipment may be the responsibility of the exhibitor.)