365 - SELF DETERMINED
General 4-H Project

Project ideas (other than Idea Starters below) MUST be pre-approved by the Extension office.

* Member MUST participate in County Project/Interview Judging or 4-H Project will be INCOMPLETE.
* Member must attend General 4-H Project Judging Day to be eligible for County Placement and State Fair Selection (if applicable).
* If the member cannot attend Project Judging, your project can be judged at Early Judging. However, Early Judging participants will not qualify for County Placement or State Fair.
* Project must be displayed at the Ross County Fair to receive fair premiums.
* For Project Judging Dates & Times & Details:
  ASK your Club Advisor
  READ the May Family HOTLINE sent to every 4-H family
  LOOK on the 4-H website http://ross.osu.edu

Skill Level: Recommended for members age 12 and over.

Self-Determined Idea Starters: members may use project ideas below or explore a topic of their choice.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>365</th>
<th>Self-Determined (your own topic)</th>
<th>365.17 Baby Sitting</th>
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<tr>
<td>365.01</td>
<td>Astronomy</td>
<td>365.18 Ways of Knowing Water</td>
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<td>365.02</td>
<td>Model Railroading</td>
<td>365.19 The Work World is Calling</td>
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<td>365.03</td>
<td>Weather</td>
<td>365.20 Paper Craft</td>
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<td>365.04</td>
<td>Clowning</td>
<td>365.21 Skateboarding</td>
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<td>365.06</td>
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<td>365.08</td>
<td>Discovering Genetics</td>
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<td>365.09</td>
<td>Canoeing</td>
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<td>365.11</td>
<td>Camp Counseling</td>
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<td>365.12</td>
<td>Miniature Gardens</td>
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<td>365.13</td>
<td>Reptiles &amp; Amphibians</td>
<td>365.29 Water Quality: Field to Faucet</td>
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<td>365.14</td>
<td>Climate Change</td>
<td>365.30 String Art</td>
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<td>365.15</td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>365.31 Crop Production</td>
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<tr>
<td>365.16</td>
<td>Viruses, Bacteria &amp; Fungi, Oh My!</td>
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</tbody>
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See other side for requirements ➔
**Requirements:**
The Self Determined Project provides opportunity for a 4-H member to plan, design, and write his/her own 4-H project. It can be in two broad categories:

1. Explore a new or different aspect of a current project area. This should only be done if the member has completed all projects in this area, and uses a new approach or dimension.
2. Develop a plan for a project not currently offered in Ohio.

**Completion:**
Using the “Self-Determined Project Guide #365”, prepare a notebook which includes:

1. Topic identification
2. At least 3 Interest Areas, each with at least 3 activities
3. At least two Learning Experiences
4. At least two Leadership/Citizenship experiences
5. Documentation and photos of what you did to complete the Project Activities.
6. Write a Project Summary
7. Prepare a display of your project.
   *Display must be on a 36” high by 48” wide cardboard tri-fold display board with 12” wings.* (similar to the science fair backboards). This requirement aligns with State Fair judging.

**Judging:**
1. Participate in personal interview.
2. Bring:
   a. Completed project notebook
   b. Completed Self-Determined Project Guide Booklet (#365)
   c. Tri-fold display and sample of project work

**County Fair Exhibit:**
Notebook of your written project plan and item representing your project
(Due to booth space limits, tri-fold displays may/may not be exhibited. Ask your advisor if there is room for it)

**State Fair Competition:**
1. State Fair participants will be selected during county-level competition on General 4-H Project Judging Day.
2. Completed 356 Project Record
3. Sample of Project Work
4. Tri-fold display (required for state fair)
5. Interview

**Notes:**
☑ Some Self-Determined projects will go to the State Fair on days other than the Self-Determined Day. These projects may have different and/or additional requirements.

☑ The Tri-fold Display must include
   “Title of Project”
   “Background” – historical or general information about your topic
   “Areas of Interest” – areas of your project you chose to focus on
   “Results” – what you did
   “Conclusion” – what you learned

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REQUIREMENTS for Self-Determined DISPLAYS

Display Must:
1. Be on a 36” high X 48” wide cardboard tri-fold display board with 12” wings.
2. Include the following:
   a. Title of the Project
   b. Background – historical or general information about your topic.
   c. Area of Interest – areas of project you chose to focus on
   d. Results – what you did
   e. Conclusion – what you learned
Material
Due to limited space, participants are required to display their project work on a 36" high by 46" wide cardboard tri-fold display board with 12" wings. In addition, each participant will be limited to a 46" wide by 15" deep tabletop display space. Additional exhibit space and electrical connections are not available. The display board itself can be handmade or purchased.

Color
Before you go any further, decide what colors you will use. If your background needs painting, an acrylic paint works best. Choose contrasting colors for lettering. If you are in doubt about your combination, get another opinion.

Lettering
Your title can be cut out of construction paper, poster paper, or other materials and attached (taped or glued) to the display board. Display boards can also be lettered by hand, first in pencil, and then retraced in marker.

Drawings
Drawings and sketches should always be drawn in pencil first and then retraced.

Photos
Every project display does not need photos, but if you have a camera, you might consider recording your progress. If photos are included with your project records, they should be placed at the end. Photos on your display board should be labeled.

Your Presentation to the Judges
You must consider your presentation as important as any other part of your project. Practice will make the difference in how well you present yourself to the judges.

Here is a step-by-step approach to organizing the ten minutes you have with your judges:
1. Introduce yourself. “Hello, my name is ____________”
2. Give the title of your project. “The title of my project is ____________”
3. Explain the background of your project. “The background of my project is ____________”
4. Tell the judges how you got interested in your project topic.
5. Explain your areas of interest. “The areas that I chose to explore in my project were ____________”
6. Talk about your results. If you have charts, graphs or a notebook, show them to the judges and explain them. If results are shown on your display, point them out. Also be sure to show them a sample of your project work.
7. Explain what you have learned. If you think that you had some problems or error in your project, don’t be afraid to admit these.
8. Tell the judges what you might do in the future to continue your project. What would you have done differently if you were to do the project again?
9. Of what interest would your project be to other 4-H members?
10. “Do you have any questions?” If you do not know the answer to a judge’s question, then say, “I am sorry, but I do not know the answer, but I think it is ____________”
11. Thank the judges.

Other Tips for Presenting
It is very important to use your time well. You will want to impress your judges with your project, your knowledge and your enthusiasm. All people are affected in one way or another by the way we look, the way we talk, and the way we act. Adults are usually impressed with good manners and nice clothes.

Here are some tips:
1. Wear nice clothes.
2. Stand up straight on both feet. Don’t sway from foot to foot.
3. Look straight into the eyes of your judges. Pay attention to both of your judges.
4. Stand to the side of your exhibit when talking.
5. Get the judges involved in your project. Let them see, taste, smell, hear or hold a sample of your project work. Point out important points using your display.
6. Do not chew gum or candy.
7. Speak loudly enough to be heard by both of your judges.
8. Smile